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MARRIAGE.

On September 29th, at the Registrar General's Office, Hongkong, FREDERICK, eldest son of Samuel Ezra BISHOP, of Radipole, near Weymouth, England, to CAROLINE LAURA, only daughter of Mary Florence and the late Allison Sott CLINTON, of New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A. [2149]

DEATHS.

At Canton, on the 30th September, 1897, WILLIAM DE S. CROIX, of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, aged 49 years. [2257]

On the 20th September, at No. 39, Kerbau Road, Singapore, ANDREA VIRGINIA, the beloved wife of A. G. DOUGLAS, of Hongkong.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 2nd September arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 30th September (28 days); the English mail of the 3rd September arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, on the 4th October (31 days); and the Canadian mail of the 13th September arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 5th October (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The report that Sir Claude MacDonald was shortly to visit Shanghai is contradicted.

Tsai Taotai took over his seals of office as acting Taotai of Shanghai on the 1st October.

In consequence of the fall in exchange the steamship lines are putting up their passage rates between China and Europe and intermediate ports.

The extension to Indo-China of the law for the prevention of cruelty to animals is under consideration. The *Avenir du Tonkin* thinks there is more need of a law for the protection of Europeans than of one for the protection of animals.

The embargo is off the Peiyang dollar now. The mint authorities have called in the base coins and are issuing sound dollars in their place; consequently all the local banks accept them as current coin. The dollar is also in free circulation in the city.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

The Douglas Steamship Co's steamer *Namou* was wrecked on the morning of the 4th October by striking a sunken rock close to Cow's Horn, outside the north entrance to Haitan Straits. The vessel was beached in an exposed position and all hands were landed with the exception of eight Chinese.

There is a rumour current, says a native paper, that H.E. Chang Yin-huan, Special Ambassador to England for the Diamond Jubilee, has been recently denounced by a Censor and that, in consequence, the Emperor has telegraphed to H.E. to return to Peking at once to answer the alleged impeachment.

The present rate of exchange, says the *Shun Pao*, has greatly affected business transactions in Hankow, where a few days ago a most influential Chinese Bank closed its doors, its manager disappearing; two days after, another followed suit, and yesterday, in consequence of a rumour that the Ting Sing Bank would close its doors, hundreds of people rushed to the bank with cheques in hand demanding immediate payment. Fortunately the bank had sufficient reserve to meet the demand; otherwise it would have suffered the same fate as the other banks.—*Mercury*.

H.M.S. *Pigmy* arrived at Shanghai from Ningpo on the 29th September. As noted in these columns a few days ago, she was sent from Ningpo to Taichou with H.B.M.'s Consul on board to enquire into the disturbances which have recently taken place near Haimen between the Protestant and Catholic converts. It appears that the Chinese authorities did not care to interfere in the matter, and that the missionaries on either side took no measures to prevent these disturbances breaking out. The missionaries have therefore been informed by Mr. Playfair that if disturbances continue, the native authorities will be requested to step in and quell them.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Hanoi Chamber of Commerce is petitioning against the construction of the proposed railway from Lungchow to Nanning, on the ground that instead of benefiting Tonkin it would divert traffic from that country to the West River route and so benefit Hongkong. Our French neighbours have been a long time in becoming alive to that rather self-evident fact. In the course of the petition the following is quoted as the view of the Chinese mandarins:—"How blind your diplomacy is! You obtain for your good offices towards us routes of penetration into our country. We are going to bear the expense solely to be agreeable to you; we have no need of these lines; and you choose those which will only serve the English."

Mr. Hoshi, the Japanese Minister to Washington, has telegraphed to his Government that tea and other duty-free goods imported into the United States through Canada must be inspected by the U.S. Consul at Vancouver, and after having the Consular seal affixed to them the goods will be admitted into the United States without paying the additional duty of 10 per cent. on crossing the frontier, as originally decreed.

A private telegram has been received in Tientsin, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, announcing the bare fact that Mr. Sheridan P. Read has been superseded in the American Consulate of the Port. The community will receive this news with unfeigned regret. Never since Tientsin has been a consular port have American interests been watched with greater vigilance or administered with more conspicuous zeal and ability than by Mr. Read. During the last few months, Mr. Read has been the Consular *Doyen*: in this capacity he has shown so happily a combination of intelligence with urbanity, of willingness to act with sound sense in acting, as to gratify foreigners and Chinese alike, and to enhance the feeling of regret at his recall.

A report from reliable native sources states that H.E. Jen Tao-yung, at present Director-General of the Yellow River, expects either to take Viceroy Chang Chih-tung's place at Wuchang very soon, or Viceroy T'an Chung-lin's at Canton, and that in the event of his going to Canton the Wuchang post will be given to the retiring Viceroy Lu Ch'nan-lin of Szechuan, and vice versa. In other words Viceroy T'an of Canton had already received the sanction of the Throne to retire, while Viceroy Liu of Nanking expects to be permitted to do so by the end of this year. The vacancy in Nanking will, therefore, naturally be given to Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, thereby leaving the viceroys of the Hu-Kwang and the Two Kwang vacant. According to rumour the filling of these vacancies has already been settled at Peking and will be bestowed respectively on Jen Tao-yung and Lu Ch'nan-lin. Both these high officials are favourites of the Emperor.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The budget of Indo-China for next year is, we learn, to be made up in francs, instead of dollars, and all payments to the Government on revenue account will have to be made at the exchange rate of the day. The expediency of adopting the gold standard for the colony is under consideration, but no decision has yet been arrived at. Meantime the public finances are in a bad way. The *Courrier d'Haiphong* says:—"Before returning to Tonkin to spend some time with his family the Governor-General (who is at present at Saigon or on tour in the neighbourhood) is to go to Hongkong. According to good information which has reached us, the principal object of this visit is to enable M. Doumer to make to the English banks propositions, which we must suppose are judicious, with reference to a financial combination which if it is brought about will deliver us from the deadlock to which the whole of Indo-China has been brought in consequence of the enormous depreciation of the dollar. We hope we may be false prophets, but we greatly fear that this movement of the Governor-General will resolve itself simply into a pleasure trip. We hope that M. Doumer may find nothing disagreeable in it."

INCREASED TAXATION.

The announcement of a proposed increase of twenty-three per cent. in the municipal taxation of the colony will not be received by the community in a cheerful spirit. Coming as it does, concomitantly with a general increase in the cost of living, the burden will be severely felt, especially by the working classes, who will have to pay a considerably larger increase than that demanded by the Government. Why this must be so will readily be seen when it is remembered that Chinese tenement houses are generally let at a lump sum "taxes included." The landlords will naturally increase the rent to an amount that will cover the increased taxation and leave a little over for themselves, the tenant will apply the same measure to the sub-tenants to whom he lets out the individual floors, and these again will charge their lodgers higher rates, the result being that a coolie who now pays say \$2 a month for his lodging may have to pay \$2½. At the same time the cost of provisions and rates of wages are increasing, and what with this and the increased taxation the European householder, we fear, may look forward to an increase of not much less than twenty-five per cent. taking place in the cost of living before very long.

The presumed necessity for increased taxation of course arises from the increase in the public expenditure, for which the unfavourable rate at which the colony now has to meet its obligations in gold for exchange compensation, pensions, and so forth, is in a large measure responsible. And perhaps the most galling feature in the situation is that out of every dollar that is raised to meet the deficiency the Imperial Government will appropriate 17½ cents under the name of military contribution. It is becoming evident that a charge of 17½ per cent. of its gross revenue for military contribution is a burden too heavy for the colony to bear, and if taxation is to go on increasing consideration will have to be given to the steps that may most effectively be taken to secure a reconsideration of the case at the hands of the Imperial authorities.

It must be rather exasperating to the Governor, on the eve of his retirement from the administration, to have to propose an increase in taxation, especially if His Excellency recalls the glowing prospects he held out in 1892 on the occasion of the presentation of diplomas to the students of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese. That institution was an applicant for financial assistance on the part of the Government, and His Excellency held out hopes that the public finances would soon be brought into such a condition as would justify compliance with the application. In every colony in which he had been, His Excellency said, he had been so extremely unfortunate as to arrive during a financial crisis, but in previous cases he had left them in easy circumstances, and he expressed his trust that by economy and good government he might before he left "these charming shores of Hongkong" be in a position to announce that the endowment of the College of Medicine had been granted by a willing Legislative Council. At the dinner in the evening His Excellency again spoke in a similar strain and anticipated that he would in a few months be able to show a permanent saving of \$60,000 a year. So far from those anticipations having been fulfilled the cost of administration has gone on steadily increasing and the strain has now become so great that

increased taxation, though not actually decided upon, is believed to be inevitable.

His Excellency, we need hardly remark, is not directly responsible for the misfortunes that have befallen the colony during his administration. The plague was a calamity that no one could foresee or, in the circumstances under which it fell upon us, prevent; but if any future Governor declares his ignorance of the existence of a single insanitary house in the colony we hope it will be due to the fact that an insanitary house cannot be found, and not simply to a want of acquaintance with the real conditions of the place. Nor can any blame be imputed to the Governor in connection with the difficulties arising from the fall in exchange. The only point on which possibly some responsibility for our present misfortunes may be held to rest with His Excellency is that when the settlement of the military contribution question was under consideration he did not, before the decision was arrived at, claim on behalf of the colony some rebate in respect of purely municipal revenue, instead of allowing the claim to stand over until the final decision had been announced and had become practically irrevocable unless under pressure of something like a constitutional crisis. We hope, however, that even at this late hour His Excellency may be able to do something towards straightening out the colony's finances without having resort to the painful expedient of increased taxation.

A GOLD STANDARD FOR CHINA.

Mr. Ottomar Haupt, who writes the Paris letter for the *Financial Times*, takes a gloomy, but, we fear, not too gloomy a view of the future of silver. The days of silver, Mr. HAUPT says, are numbered; the price of the metal may recover, it is true, but no one who has made the question at issue his special study will credit it with the powers of forming the basis of any well-regulated monetary system. Believing as we do in the scientific soundness of the bimetallic theory, we are nevertheless constrained to acknowledge that Mr. HAUPT is right as a matter of fact and that, silver having been kicked out of doors by all the leading nations, the metal can no longer form the basis of any well regulated monetary system. It is useless now to speculate on what might have been if the nations had only pursued a different policy; we have to deal with accomplished facts, and the practical question for us in Hongkong is whether our interests would not be best served by boldly adopting the gold standard. The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has quite recently answered that question in the negative, holding that the colony is commercially so closely allied with China that it could not safely break away from her on the currency question. We believe, however, that there is considerable wavering on the subject amongst the mercantile community, and that the answer recently returned by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to the Singapore Chamber was founded more on the principle that it is safer on the part of a public body not to commit itself prematurely to a declaration in favour of fundamental changes than on any strong conviction in the minds of the members. It seems to us that the change of standard will sooner or later become inevitable and that it resolves itself merely into a question of whether Hongkong will lead or follow China in the matter, whether it will play the part of the head or the tail. Already practically the whole

of the foreign trade of China is done on a sterling basis, exchange being fixed with every contract that is entered into. That fixing of exchange is a cumbrous and unbusiness-like arrangement that cannot continue indefinitely, but must inevitably be exchanged for the simpler one of an actual currency corresponding to that which forms the basis on which transactions are entered into. If the standard coin of Hongkong were a gold dollar it would be accepted as the standard at all the treaty ports, prices in all contracts being fixed in Hongkong dollars instead of, as at present, silver dollars or taels at a sterling exchange specially arranged in connection with each transaction. As to the official standard of China, people are rather inclined to scout the idea of change being within measurable distance. China, it is argued, moves slowly, and the idea of her adopting a policy of currency reform within the lifetime of any one now living seems almost inconceivable. A change, however, we believe is impending. China is not only a slow moving country, but is also a country of anomalies, and it would not be surprising to find her making a partial adoption of the gold standard, for the regulation of her foreign trade, while leaving the country generally to its old time system of barter, which is the system that really prevails away from the great commercial centres. China has now an extensive gold debt secured by the Customs revenue, and the expediency of collecting that revenue in gold can hardly have failed to present itself to the mind of Sir ROBERT HART or to the institutions through which the loans have been contracted. If a proposition to that effect were made to the Treaty Powers the latter, having themselves thrown over silver, could not well decline to accede. And if China does not do something of the kind she is not unlikely to find herself in Queer Street with respect to her gold obligations, which would not at all suit the books of her creditors. A partial adoption of the gold standard by China may therefore take place at a comparatively early date, and this colony, if it does not change its present currency system before that date, will have to do so then. As there is little prospect of gain and great fear of loss by pursuing a waiting policy we would suggest that the colony should make the change at once. We are well aware that such an important change could not be carried out without temporarily influencing adversely various important interests, and opposition from the representatives of those interests must be expected, but the change would, we believe, be to the advantage of the colony as a whole, and, ultimately, of the particular interests that might for a time suffer by it. If it be true that silver has lost the power of forming the basis of any well regulated monetary system, and if it be also true that the absence of a well regulated monetary system is prejudicial to a country's commercial prosperity, it follows that the best thing Hongkong or any other colony or country can do is to fall into line with the rest of the world and adopt a currency that will receive universal acknowledgment as a measure of values in commercial transactions.

The vessel now being constructed at the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard at Nagasaki for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is of 6,000 tons displacement. The steamer is expected to be launched at the end of October and will be named the *Hidachi-maru*. Immediately after its completion a similar vessel, to be named the *Shinano-maru*, will be laid down. The *Hidachi-maru* is the largest steamer that has yet been built by Japanese.—*Nagasaki Press*.

THE TRADE OF CHINA AND THE STANDARD OF VALUE.

In the report on the trade of China for 1896 by the Hon. Hugh GROSVENOR, Acting Secretary of Legation, there are some interesting remarks on the measure in which the value of the trade may most appropriately be stated and the probable effect of currency changes on the development of the cotton industry. A table is given showing the relative annual values in currency and in sterling since the year 1885 of the foreign trade of China, which, if the silver value be taken, as has been customary, as the measure of its volume, would appear to have more than doubled during the period in question. But it appears to Mr. GROSVENOR "that in making comparisons extending back over a number of years the great fall in exchange renders the silver figures a very deceptive standard for measuring the variations in the volume of trade, and that the value of the commodities imported into China from foreign countries and exported to them is more fairly expressed in terms of the metal which is the more general standard of value in those countries. For instance, the value of the raw silk which the Lyons merchant imports from Canton or of the piece-goods which the Manchester manufacturer sends to Shanghai is not affected by the fluctuations in the currency unit used at the Chinese ports to designate that value." As we had occasion to remark the other day, the foreign trade of China is virtually conducted on a sterling basis. What Mr. GROSVENOR says supports that view. At the same time it is open to question whether on the whole sterling affords a more reliable measure of the value of the trade of the country over a long term of years than silver, for owing to the decline in gold prices an increase in the volume of the trade is consistent with a decline in its value as stated in gold, though the fall in prices has been less marked during the last few years than it was for some time previously. On the other hand, silver prices have been rising, so that a statement of the value of the trade in that metal exaggerates the increase in its volume. In 1885 the value of the trade was H. Tls. 153,205,729, or £40,500,000, while in 1896 it was H. Tls. 333,671,415, or £55,600,000, the actual increase in the volume, we take it, being less than the silver figures would represent, but more than the gold figures would represent. With the great increase in the production of gold that is now going on we are probably on the eve of a general increase of gold prices, but that is hardly calculated to improve the position of silver, owing to the adverse influences, in the shape of currency changes, operating on the fortunes of the white metal.

Mr. GROSVENOR goes on to point out that China is not strictly speaking a silver using country, and that though all considerable sums are reckoned in taels and paid in silver, the true unit of currency is the cash. These absurd coins are the medium by which all the daily transactions of the Chinese people are exclusively carried on. "The price of labour and of raw produce alike must ultimately be paid in copper cash, and the silver tael is merely a convenient form of reckoning or carrying about the number of cash for which it will exchange. It has been stated that while the price of silver in relation to gold has been going down, its purchasing power in China has remained constant. This would only be true if there had been no alteration in the exchange between

"silver and copper cash, and supposing the value of the latter in relation to other commodities to have remained unchanged. As a matter of fact there has been a steady rise during the last few years in the silver price of cash; the year 1896 has witnessed a further considerable rise throughout China, attributed partly to scarcity and insufficient minting of the coin, so that the tael, which formerly exchanged for 1,500 cash, will now only purchase 1,200 or less. Side by side with this increase in the silver price of cash, there has also been a marked tendency for the cash itself to depreciate in regard to commodities in general, so that the gold price of Chinese commodities has not fallen to an extent by any means so great as has been generally assumed from the decrease in the exchange value of silver."

Speaking of the cotton industry and the bearing of the silver question upon it, Mr. GROSVENOR remarks that if copper cash maintains its present inclination to appreciate with reference to silver and to decline in relation to everything else, a fall in the exchange value of silver would not be of any great advantage to the employers of Chinese labour. He expresses the opinion, however, that the wages now paid in Shanghai are considerably in excess of what the operatives could afford to take, and that the necessity for the payment of a higher rate is not to be anticipated, although the average efficiency of the hands is likely to increase considerably with time. On the whole, Mr. GROSVENOR thinks that the foreign manufacturing industry in China should have a great future before it, an opinion in which we believe all competent judges agree. We do not think, however, that the decline in silver will have anything like the effect upon the industry that is generally supposed, or that the profits of the mills would be seriously prejudiced by the adoption of the gold standard by China. Labour and commodities will find their true value irrespective of currency fluctuations, and we find that at present the prices of both are tending upwards in China, as expressed in silver, in sympathy with the decline in the value of that metal.

THE RUSSIANIZATION OF KOREA.

Whatever may happen in China within the next few years as a consequence of the footing acquired by Russia in Manchuria, there can be little doubt that the Russianization of Korea has commenced. The slow indolence of the natives of the Land of Morning Calm will soon receive very decided awakeners from the vigorous Muscovite, who, however dull and apathetic in Holy Russia, is a different creature under the spur of military discipline. Russian officers are now installed in their posts as instructors of the garrison at Seoul, and the tactics used and the words of command given are both Russian. The Chemulpo correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary says that, as he writes, "there come wafted on the breeze the voices of a regiment of Koreans trying to sing a Russian vesper hymn." From which we may perhaps be justified in assuming that care for the bodies of the Korean soldiers extends (in Russian estimation) to care for their souls also. The same authority is responsible for a report—made if we remember rightly some years ago—to the effect that the Russians are showing a yearning for possession of a tract of land on Deer Island. This island lies at the entrance of the harbour of Fusan, and is not only most favourably situated for purposes of defence but possesses a supply of excellent

water, which for some occult reason is denied to the port. This water is conducted under the sea to Fusan by a pipe, and the island is therefore of great importance to the town. The Japanese have a small coal godown on Deer Island, and the fact has apparently been made the excuse for a demand by Russia for a concession of twenty acres on which also to erect coal godowns. Another report states that the Russians have secured the island as a naval coaling station. The Japanese, not to be entirely left in the lurch, are said meantime to be erecting barracks at Gensan that will be capable of accommodating five thousand troops, though they state that they are intended for the use of the two hundred men only, the number they are allowed, under the Russian Convention, to quarter at each of the Korean Treaty ports. Japanese agents are also reported to be using money freely in Seoul in order to foster an anti-Russian feeling. It is clear from the reports that trickle southwards from Korea that little real progress is being effected in the peninsula, while in many matters greater confusion and ineptitude prevail than before the advent of the Japanese and Western nations. What will happen when the Russian instructors have taught the natives how to shoot and licked them into something like the semblance of soldiers it is hard to say. It is inevitable, however, if the Japanese garrisons remain in the Treaty ports, that there will be friction and probably fighting. One or other influence must predominate in the peninsula—either Russian or Japanese—and in the end one Power will have to withdraw. Which will it be? The Russians are not wont to retire from any position of advantage unless they obtain some *quid pro quo* in another direction, and they have been scheming for many years to secure a footing in Korea. A collision may therefore be looked for between Russia and Japan before many years elapse unless the restraining influence of the other Treaty Powers is exercised to preserve the peace; or unless another way be found to compose their differences, namely, through Manchuria. This is unlikely, but not impossible. Unlikely, because Japan has once before been sacrificed by Russia for China, and probably would be again. Not impossible, because we believe Russia would prefer Manchuria to Korea, and it might under some conceivable circumstances suit her to secure the alliance of Japan in a contest with the latter's old antagonist. In any case, Russia is so playing her cards in the north-eastern corner of Asia that she is almost certain to attain her great object—the possession of a port in waters open to navigation the year through, to which to bring the Pacific terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway. The vast importance of this question will govern and guide Muscovite policy in the Far East until it is secured, when perhaps Russia will proceed with her real mission as a great Power, viz., the civilisation and redemption from aridity of Central Asia.

At Shanghai, at half-past eight on Wednesday night, 29th September, seven sailors belonging to the Austrian steamer *Gisela*, which was at anchor opposite the Old Ningpo Wharf, were thrown into the water through the sampan, in which they intended to go ashore, capsizing. Six of them saved themselves by hanging on to the sampan, but the other, the donkeyman, was drowned, and his body has not yet been recovered. The sampan man was carried by the tide between the steamer and the lighters that were lying alongside, one of which crushed the poor man's head, and although he was rescued from the water, he died whilst being conveyed to the hospital.—*China Gazette*.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN CHINA.

The era of railway construction in China appears now to be commencing in earnest, and within the next few years important developments may be looked for. The line from Tientsin to Kaiping, constructed originally for the conveyance of coal from the mines to the port, broke the ice, and was found to be of such practical utility that it has now been extended beyond Shanhaikwan. The other day a line connecting Peking and Tientsin was opened, and already there is talk of duplicating it. The construction of the Shanghai and Woosung Railway is proceeding rapidly, and on the 28th August work on the Chinese Eastern Railway, in Manchuria, was commenced. Work is also reported to have been commenced on the great trunk line that is to connect Hankow with Peking, though the real position in regard to that undertaking is still involved in some doubt. The JAMESON-HOOLEY Syndicate has secured concessions for railways from Shanghai to Nanking and from Soochow to Hangchow, and they are not likely to let the grass grow under their feet in securing whatever benefits may result from the carrying out of those projects. Nor is it likely that the new system of locomotion will be long in making its appearance in the South. A commercial province like Kwangtung will not lag far behind the other provinces in a matter of that kind, and it is possible that the Canton and Kowloon line may become an accomplished fact before many more years have passed.

It is under pressure from without that China has been compelled to move forward. Her defeat by Japan not only exposed her weakness, but brought with it a strengthening of foreign influence through the financial obligations that had to be contracted. Left to herself China would have continued in the old way indefinitely, and would speedily relapse into it if the ressure to which she is now subject were removed. The construction of railways under such circumstances cannot in itself be taken as evidence of an intellectual awakening. Railways have not regenerated Turkey and it remains to be seen what effect they will have in China. That they will lead to a large development of trade is certain, but whether that development will be accompanied by any corresponding improvement in the government of the country is, to say the least, doubtful. A hopeful feature is the anxiety displayed in some quarters to promote the study of foreign languages and modern science, but the conservatism of the race is deep seated, the ruling classes are devoted to the squeeze system, and the reform movement is as yet an exceedingly tender plant. It is unlikely that we shall see in China any such intellectual development as that which has during the past thirty years worked a transformation in the Japanese nation.

The *Mainichi Shinbun* is urging the passing of laws for the better control of the merchant marine of Japan. It points out the utter powerlessness of the captains of Japanese ships when their men refuse to obey orders, neglect their duty, or assault officers on the voyage; and further remarks that the provisions of the Penal Code at present do not provide punishment of an adequate nature in any of these cases. It is certainly time that something like the discipline enforced by the Merchant Shipping Act on English vessels should be applied to Japanese ships if the good name of Japan is to be preserved.—*Japan Mail*.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SHIP- PING.

The recrudescence of the plague in the Bombay Presidency has induced the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to address the Government on the necessity of taking every possible precaution with a view to keep the scourge out of Bengal. The Committee of the Chamber dwell on the disaster that would follow on Calcutta being closed as an export port, to the agricultural, planting, and manufacturing industries of Bengal and Assam, and they point out that any further steps which can be taken to materially reduce the probability of the plague reaching the Presidency, will meet with the entire approval of the mercantile community. From the quarantine regulations recently adopted for Calcutta, which were laid before the Hongkong Sanitary Board at its last meeting and a *precis* of which appeared in our columns, it will be seen that Calcutta has not shrunk from the adoption of a system of medical inspection of ships and medical surveillance. If the latter measure is at all feasible in a city like Calcutta how much more feasible would it be at Hongkong, where the population is smaller. It may be remembered that the Hon. F. H. MAY, in a letter taking exception to certain comments which appeared in this column on the discussion at the Sanitary Board, said:—"Surveillance is the very essence of the system of medical inspection which Dr. CLARK advocates, and it is the surveillance on shore of passengers landing out of an infected ship, or arriving from an infected port, that some, including myself, regard as impracticable here." For our own part we can hardly conceive of any place where the system would be more practicable. However, as no one in the colony with the exception of Dr. CLARK appears to have any actual acquaintance with the working of the system, it will be an advantage to have the experience of another Eastern city as a guide, and we would suggest that after the Calcutta regulations have had a few months' trial a full report on their working should be obtained. Such a report, we opine, would remove much misapprehension and show that the anticipated difficulties have been exaggerated. In ordinary times very few persons would be subjected to medical surveillance, and in times when epidemic disease was prevailing in our neighbourhood such a system would be less prejudicial to the trade of the colony than the total prohibition of immigration from the infected ports, a system which not only entails much direct and indirect loss, but which has also been shown to be ineffective, inasmuch as persons from the infected ports can reach the colony by the simple expedient of proceeding first to some other port.

But while some, including Mr. MAY, object to the system of medical inspection on account of the assumed impracticability of medical surveillance, the objection of the majority, we believe, was directed to the examination of ships and their passengers. On this point also the experience of Calcutta will be useful, for the system is to be applied there, as it was proposed it should be here, to native as well as foreign craft; and it was in relation to native craft that the chief difficulty was anticipated in Hongkong. It will be observed that the duty which in England is thrown on the Customs officers of ascertaining in the first instance if there has been any sickness or the voyage is in Calcutta thrown upon the pilot. In Hongkong it might, if it were deemed advisable, be thrown upon

the boarding officer, though it would be more satisfactory, and in the long run perhaps not more expensive, to have the duty discharged by a medical man. We do not suppose that the experience of Calcutta in the matter of medical inspection will be found very alarming. In Hongkong it seemed to be assumed that every individual arriving in the colony was to be subjected to an examination as searching as if he were a candidate for life insurance, but we take it that in the case of vessels arriving from a healthy port and which had had no sickness on board during the voyage a duly attested declaration to that effect by the master would be accepted as dispensing with the necessity of an individual examination of the passengers.

SALE OF THE OLD COLONIAL CEMETERY.

In the last issue of the *Government Gazette* appears a notification of the intended sale by auction of a piece of land which, we hear, forms part of the old European cemetery between Kennedy Road and Queen's Road East. Some years ago all the tomb stones were removed from this old burying ground to the cemetery at Happy Valley, together with such of the human remains as were found; but we have heard that some time after this a number of coffins were exposed, and it is believed there are many more about the place, for in addition to the graves marked by tombstones, which were dealt with as above described, there must have been many nameless graves whose existence was unknown. The question has been raised whether it is seemly to dispose of this land for building purposes. It is seldom that disused graveyards in England are at the present day turned over to the builder; they are more generally utilised as recreation grounds or gardens. The same policy is followed by the Hongkong Government with regard to other disused graveyards. There is, for instance, the old disused Mahomedan cemetery on Robinson Road, below the house known as Ravenshill; the bodies were removed from this cemetery many years ago, and the ground has since been repeatedly applied for for building purposes, but the Government has consistently declined to sell it, and within the last few years it has been utilised as a recreation ground. There is also a disused Chinese cemetery to the eastward of the city which, it is understood, is also held as unavailable for sale. Why, it may be asked, should a different course be adopted with regard to the first European cemetery, where the pioneers of the colony were buried, and whose tombstones bore in several instances names that have become historical? In the case of the old Mahomedan cemetery we believe a promise was made to the Mahomedan community at the time the burying place was changed that the old one should not be sold, and of course the Government is bound by the promise; but must it not be held that in the case of the old European cemetery there was an implied promise to the same effect, implied simply because no one could have thought it necessary to exact an expressed promise? At the time the change was made the community would probably not have contemplated with equanimity the probability of the ground being built over, had such a course been suggested, any more than the present generation would like to entertain the idea of the cemetery at Happy Valley being some day built over. The matter is largely one of senti-

ment, and perhaps the community may not feel keenly enough about it to object to the proposed sale, but it is well, we think, that attention should be drawn to it. In the Government notification issued at the time of the removal of the remains the reason assigned was that the cemetery "having become surrounded by a dense population of Chinese of the poorer classes, it is found difficult to keep it in a condition of decency and cleanliness," and the survivors, friends, or relatives of those buried there who desired to make any objection were invited to do so. There was nothing said at that time about any intention of ultimately selling the land.

THE PUNISHMENT OF JUVENILE HOMICIDES IN CHINA.

Public attention was recently excited at Shanghai by a report that a child eleven years of age who had accidentally caused the death of his mother had been conveyed from his home at Kiukuei to Soochow, where he was to be put to death by the lingchi or slicing process. Inquiries were made by the Rev. Dr. MUIRHEAD to ascertain whether the report was accurate or not, with a view to action being taken to prevent the carrying out of such a barbarous sentence in the event of its actually having been passed. The result of the inquiries was that "the authorities declared they never heard of the case, and averred the story was altogether untrue, alike in reference to the supposed murder and the punishment of the boy." As the *N. C. Daily News* remarks, all who are familiar with Chinese methods must be aware that the authorities would do their best to conceal the true facts of the case when they knew enquiries were being made by foreigners, and it is not surprising, therefore, that such enquiries should have failed to elicit the true state of affairs. A correspondent now communicates to our contemporary a letter from the Rev. D. L. ANDERSON, of Soochow, who confirms the fact that a boy about eleven years old was brought to Soochow from Kiukuei charged with having caused his mother's death and that he is now in the hands of the Prefect. As yet, Mr. ANDERSON says, the child has not been condemned to death by the slicing process or any other, but the Chinese think that he will be beheaded, probably in the ninth moon. A correspondent whose letter appears in another column suggests that the boy will be detained until he is sixteen and will then be executed by the lingchi. Now that public attention has been called to the matter it is more probable that the child's life will be spared, but the fact that there should be any ground of uncertainty on that point proves the inherent barbarism of the Chinese criminal code.

FELO-DE-SE.

The increase in the number of suicides in Great Britain may possibly be due in some measure to the fact that the taking of one's own life is viewed now with much less odium than formerly and that the stigma is likely to rest more lightly on his family than would have been the case a generation or two ago. It is seldom that a verdict of *felo de se* is now returned, the slightest excuse being seized upon by juries to find temporary insanity. It has been argued, indeed, that the act of suicide is in itself evidence of insanity, even though unsupported by other evidence, and this view was formally adopted by a coroner the other day, for the first time we believe;

and we doubt whether lawyers in general would accept it as correct. The body of Mr. ARCHIBALD CHARLES BOVILL, Barrister of the Western Circuit, son of the late Sir WILLIAM BOVILL, Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas, was found in the library of Rainthorpe Hall, Flordon, Norfolk, with a fowling piece between his legs, and under circumstances which could leave no doubt that he had committed suicide. The Coroner in his summing up at the inquest said there was no evidence whatever to show that deceased had been depressed or out of his mind previous to the time he committed the act, but self-preservation was the first law of nature and no one in his right senses would injure himself; therefore the fact of his having fired off the gun for the purpose of taking his life was evidence itself that his mind must have been temporarily deranged. The jury found that deceased had committed suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind. A verdict of this kind, which leaves little stigma on the memory of the deceased and can give little pain to the family beyond that caused by the bereavement itself is not calculated to act as a deterrent to others who may be contemplating suicide. Twenty-five years ago the suicides in Great Britain from all causes were placed at 66 in the million of population per year; five years ago they had risen to 88 in the million, and it is stated that the advance is being steadily maintained, as it is likely to be, in proportion as suicide secures public recognition as a semi-respectable method of relieving oneself of the weariness of life. Leaving aside the theological aspect of the question, however, it may well be doubted whether for the sake of any deterrent influence it may have it is worth while retaining for cases of suicide a form of verdict which imposes indignity on the dead and causes pain to the living. By the modern conscience the verdict of *felo de se* is regarded as barbarous.

SUPREME COURT.

29th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

IP PINN KWAG V. CHOY TAI SHAI.

Plaintiff sought to recover \$2,000 on a promissory note.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. V. H. Deacon), appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) for the defendant.

Mr. Francis in opening the case read the pleadings. The petition stated that the plaintiff was an assistant compradore residing in Hongkong. On or about 5th September, 1896, Choy Chu, now deceased, but then carrying on business and residing at 243, Praya West, by his promissory note made on 5th September, 1896, promised to pay to the plaintiff the sum of \$2,000 with interest thereon at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum. The sum of \$1,000 with the interest was due on the 1st February, 1897, and the remaining \$1,000 would be due on the 31st January, 1898. Choy Chu died on the 11th November, 1896, leaving assets more than sufficient to meet all liabilities. Defendant was his widow and she took out letters of administration in the probate division of the Court. She had refused to pay the plaintiff the money due on the promissory note or any part thereof. The defendant in her answer said she had no personal knowledge of the occupation and residence of the plaintiff and she denied that Choy Chu made the promissory note alleged to have been made by him. Counsel said the issues were therefore very simple, the only defence raised being that the note was not made by Choy Chu.

30th September.

His Lordship decided that the document was not a promissory note and the suit must therefore fail. Mr. Francis, who appeared for the plaintiff, asked for leave to amend the petition, and his Lordship consented, remarking that he would consider the amended petition in Chambers.

WRECK OF THE "NAMOA."

EIGHT CHINESE MISSING.

Messrs. Douglas Lapraik and Co., General Managers of the Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, have received telegraphic information of the wreck of the steamer *Namoa*. The news was first received late on Monday night, when the following telegram reached the firm:—

Foochow, 4th October.

Namoa wrecked close to Cow's Horn outside North entrance to Haitan Straits. All hands landed except eight Chinese. Ship beached in exposed position. Cannot send protection from here. Wiring Amoy. Hall [the Captain] fears no chance of salvage.

Yesterday morning a second telegram was received in answer to one despatched by Messrs. Douglas Lapraik and Co. It was in the following terms:—

Foochow, 5th October.

Struck at ten o'clock on Sunday morning on sunken rock. Survivors arrived last night. Viceroy sending protection. Particulars missing [presumably particulars regarding the missing Chinese] will telegraph later.

The *Namoa* was one of the best known of the vessels engaged on the coast. She was built by Messrs. Hall, Russell & Co., of Aberdeen, in 1872, and since then had been almost entirely on the China coast, the only variation in these duties having been an occasional voyage to Australia. She was making her 584th trip when she was wrecked. It will be remembered that the *Namoa* was pirated in December, 1890, five hours after leaving Hongkong, Captain Pocock and three others being murdered and several wounded. In shipping circles the vessel was generally known as the favourite. It is not known whether the sunken rock was marked on the chart or not, but the weather reports from South Peak indicate that a very heavy sea and wind were prevailing at the time of striking. The steamer was insured locally.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on 30th September. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE INSANITARY PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND THE OBSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE STREETS.—THE AMENDED BY-LAW.

The following by-law as amended by the Insanitary Properties Commission was forwarded to the Board for consideration. The by-law differs from that passed by the Sanitary Board in that the word "street" has been altered to "back yard or back lane," and the words in the second paragraph beginning "and provided also that this by-law" have been added. The by-law is made under Section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, and is as follows:—

"27.—No backyard or back lane over land held under lease from the Crown, upon which any domestic buildings abut, shall, without the permission in writing of the Sanitary Board, be obstructed by the erection or fixture at any elevation of any structure or object of any kind whatsoever, whether temporary or permanent, which may, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health or such other officer as may be appointed for that purpose by the Sanitary Board, prejudicially affect the health of any of the inmates of any of such buildings, or if such backyard or back lane be already partially so obstructed it shall not be further so obstructed, without such permission in writing.

"Provided always that in the event of such permission being refused by the said Board the owner of any such backyard or back lane shall have the right of appeal to a Magistrate who shall take evidence on oath thereon and who, if satisfied that the proposed obstruction will not prejudicially affect the health of any of the inmates of such building, may grant permission to erect such obstruction, and provided also that this by-law shall not affect any additions or rebuilding of any building which conforms to the provisions of the Building Ordinance of 1889 and the Public Health Ordinance of 1887 and the by-laws made thereunder.

"Any person who shall contravene this by-law shall on conviction thereof be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$25 for each contravention, and any refusal or omission after conviction, to remove the illegal structure or object shall be deemed a fresh contravention of this by-law."

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH wrote the following minute.—This recommendation of the Insanitary Properties Commission will, if adopted by the Sanitary Board, deprive it of some of the meagre powers which it already possesses under the old street by-law, and I can hardly believe that the members of the Commission have fully realized the nature of their proposal. The only reference to private streets contained in Ordinance 24 of 1887 is that it shall be considered a nuisance if any such street is so foul as to be noxious or noisome or unhealthy, while Ordinance 15 of 1889 concerns itself with the stability of building structures and therefore protection from fire, but it also contains one reference to private streets in section 52, applicable, however, only to buildings wholly erected subsequent to the passing of that Ordinance. The by-law as made by the Board, and which has already received the approval of the Commission, deals with the sanitary condition of existing dwellings abutting on private streets, lanes, &c. In February of this year I showed the members of this Commission a number of such houses and the majority of them emphatically expressed the opinion that they were "unfit for human habitation," and a disgrace to the sanitary legislation of this colony; while, moreover, in May, 1896, two prominent members of the Commission publicly spoke of the sanitary condition of the colony as being "a disgrace to civilization" (and perhaps in some respects they were not far wrong), and yet their proposal, as contained in this amended by-law, is a deliberate attempt to revert to the inadequate sanitary legislation of the pre-plague days, and all because, forsooth, a local architect considers that any improvement in the direction indicated might prejudice the rights of the owners of these disgraceful properties, for the suggestion that the Medical Officer of Health and the Magistrate would both be so blind to the true interests of the community as to object to any genuine improvements of house property is too absurd to be seriously entertained. If the Commission persists in advising these proposed amendments, I see no alternative open to me than to apply to the Board for permission to request the Magistrate to condemn many of these houses as "unfit for human habitation," in accordance with section 23 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1887. I have hitherto avoided this extreme measure in the hope that the proposal of this Commission would render such a course unnecessary, but if this emasculated by-law is to be regarded as a fair sample of what the Commission will recommend the Government to do for the betterment of the housing of the poorer classes of our community, then the Sanitary Board need no longer look to them for assistance and support in securing the very necessary reforms urged by us upon the Government in August, 1896. I fail to see any reason why this matter should be considered in camera (as suggested by the President, for the by-law has already been laid upon the table of the Legislative Council and published by the local Press, and, moreover, the suggested amendment is the outcome of a letter also published in the Press by Mr. Leigh.

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS appended the following minute.—The by-law should be retained in its previous form. The exercise of the powers conferred on the M. O. H. in any arbitrary manner is sufficiently safe guarded by the right of appeal to the Magistrate.

The PRESIDENT—I agree with the Director of Public Works.

The SECRETARY having read the minutes, The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said—Sir, I have a resolution to move on this subject, but I should just like to say a few words explanatory of the history of this by-law. As the letter of Mr. Leigh and the amended by-law of the Insanitary Properties Commission appear to me to bear absolutely no relation to one another I shall have to deal with them separately. First in regard to Mr. Leigh's letter. He says "that no owner of property will be able to add to or extend a building, or build on parts of his lot at present unbuilt upon, or pull down and rebuild on his lot, nor even put out a sunshade, either temporary or permanent, without obtaining the permission of the Medical Officer of Health." Mr. Leigh, in the first place, shows that there is confusion in his mind between a back yard and a back lane. He speaks in that sentence of a building and presumably, therefore, any space in the rear of it will be a back yard. He, who knows our sanitary regulations and by-laws so well, must know that by-law No. 5, which was passed by the Legislative Council in May last, already provides that an owner may build over a back yard provided he leaves a clear and unobstructed space, defined in the by-law as not less than 100 square feet in the case of a building of two stories and 150 feet in the case of a building of three or more stories in height. There is no provision in this street by-law which will prevent his building over such a back yard provided he leaves an open space as provided by law. Another paragraph in the letter says—"Why, then, should not the Board pass a definite by-law laying down clearly what distance at the front and back of buildings of say, one, two, or three stories in height shall be left unobstructed, instead of trying to pass such an absurd, vague, and arbitrary by-law as the one proposed, which would vary with the opinion of each and every Health Officer or other officer that may be appointed, so that there would be no certainty; and what one Health Officer might approve another would disapprove." First, sir, in regard to the space provided in the front of buildings. That is already provided for in the Building Ordinance, 15 of 1889, section 52, which says that there shall be a clear and unobstructed space of at least seven and a half feet in width, measured from the centre line of such lane in front of every new domestic building, erected in a private street. And, again, Ordinance 15 of 1894 regulates the heights of buildings in accordance with the width of the streets upon which they front. The space to be provided in the rear of buildings is similarly provided for in by-law 5, which I have already quoted. So that Mr. Leigh asks for what has already been provided, and the matter does not rest at all with the Medical Officer of Health; it is provided for in the by-laws and in the Ordinances of the colony. The other point which has been confused in his letter is, to my mind, the distinction which must be drawn between the sanitary provisions of existing houses and the sanitary provisions of future houses. That second paragraph of his letter must necessarily refer to future houses, because the application of any such hard and fast rule as he suggests to existing dwellings would necessitate the demolition of almost all the Chinese houses in the colony. Future houses are already provided for and future additions to existing houses are already provided for, and this by-law, which was originally drafted and made by the Board on the 17th December, 1896, deals with the obstruction of existing private streets. It did not, as originally drafted by the Board, leave anything to the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health. The permission to be granted, if any, was to be granted by the Sanitary Board and Mr. Leigh has apparently overlooked the fact that it was the Insanitary Properties Commission and not the Board that placed this great onus upon the Medical Officer of Health. The Board were prepared to take the responsibility, but the Commission thought otherwise and they placed the responsibility on the Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the Magistrate. At the present time there are more than one hundred private streets in the City of Victoria less than 15 feet in width; three or four, such as Fletcher Street, are of greater

width and there is yet no provision in the Ordinance or by-laws of this colony to prevent those streets being covered on the top and blocked up at both ends, and this by-law remodelled by the Insanitary Properties Commission and which was made by the Board in June last, is intended to provide for the sanitary condition of the houses fronting or otherwise abutting on those particular streets. What the Insanitary Properties Commission has done is to convert our street by-law into a back yard by-law by that proposed amendment, forgetting apparently that we have already a back yard by-law passed by the Legislative Council in May last. So that when the members of the Commission ask for the conversion of this street by-law into a back yard by-law, it shows that they hardly realize the exact position of affairs, while they stultify the whole thing when, in the last paragraph of the proposed amended by-law, they say that the by-law shall not affect any additions or rebuilding of any buildings which conform to the provisions of the Building Ordinance of 1889 and the Public Health Ordinance of 1887, neither of which has reference to the sanitary condition of existing houses which front or private streets. The matter is a difficult one to explain, verbally, but I have done my best to make it clear to you, and I now move "(1) That the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board cannot adopt the further suggestions of the Insanitary Properties Commission for the amendment of the by-law relating to the obstruction of private streets, which was drafted by the Commission and duly made by the Board on June 17th, 1897. (2) That the minutes of the members of the Board be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Governor."

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg to second that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS AT JARDINE'S GARDENS.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH wrote calling the attention of the Board to the fact that a large number of insanitary matched dwellings existed upon Inland Lots Nos. 1,018, 1,019, 1,020, and 1,021 known as Jardine's Gardens. In October, 1894, the Sanitary Board served a notice upon Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. requiring them to put some precisely similar dwellings, which then existed on Inland Lot 1,018, into a sanitary condition, or remove them entirely. After a considerable amount of correspondence the buildings were removed in May, 1895. At the end of the same year and during 1896 many of the buildings were re-erected and were now in quite as bad a condition as before, but owing to the outbreak of plague in 1896 and the regrettable death of Inspector Moffatt, who had charge of that district until June of that year, no further action was taken against Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Medical Officer of Health therefore recommended that another notice be served upon the owner or agents of the lots requiring them to put all buildings thereon into a sanitary condition, or to remove them entirely within a period of six months from the date of serving such notice. At present about 550 persons occupied the dwellings, which cover an area of about 18 acres.

In the minutes attached to the letter Mr. EDE and the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH expressed the opinion that an order should be served on the owners or agents.

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS wrote the following minute—I have already stated that a considerable number of these huts will have to be removed when the cotton mills are begun, which will take place very shortly. I think the matter could stand over until it is seen which of the huts are to be left, and these could be dealt with as suggested by the M.O.H. Greater vigilance should be observed by the Inspectors to see that those displaced by the mills are not reconstructed, as has already been the case with the huts formerly removed.

The SECRETARY informed the Board that he had received a letter from the agent's architect saying that the matcheds on lot No. 1,018 had been erected without their permission. The buildings would be pulled down as soon as possible, probably some time this month.

The PRESIDENT thought the best course was to draw the attention of the agents to the

remaining lots before taking further steps in the matter, and probably the agents would not as they had acted in the case of lot No. 1,018.

The suggestion was agreed to.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

The official return from Bombay showed that from the 19th to 30th August last there were in that city 68 cases of plague and 34 deaths.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 18th September the death rate in the colony was 23.5, compared with 15.9 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 25th September the rate was 17.6, compared with 20 for the corresponding period of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AT CALCUTTA.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on 30th Sept. the new quarantine regulations for the port of Calcutta were laid on the table. The regulations are prescribed as a temporary measure and were to take effect from the 26th August. We make the following *precis* of the regulations:—

I.—Definitions.—(1) Health Officer. (2) Infected ship.—Any ship with plague on board or on which any case of plague has occurred within twelve days before her arrival. (3) Suspected ship.—Any ship on which there has been a case of plague at time of departure, or during the voyage, but on which no fresh case has occurred for twelve days before arrival. (4) Healthy ship.—Any ship, even though coming from an infected port, which has had no plague on board. (5) Observation.—Means that persons subjected to it will be segregated in a lazaretto or isolation camp till they have obtained free pratique. (6) Surveillance.—Means that the persons subjected to it will not be isolated, but on arriving at their destination will be kept under medical supervision.

II.—Every vessel, including native craft, from an infected port, or having plague on board, or having had plague on board within twelve days of arrival, shall on arrival at the Sandheads hoist the yellow flag. The pilot on going alongside shall direct the flag to be hoisted if that has not already been done.

III.—Prohibition of communication with shore except as hereinafter provided.

IV.—If there is any case of sickness on board, and the pilot has reason to believe that it is plague, he shall telegraph to Health Officer and not proceed beyond Diamond Harbour without permission of Health Officer.

V.—Stoppage at Mateabrooj if the pilot has reason to believe that there is any one suffering from plague on board.

VI.—Health Officer, on information of stoppage at Diamond Harbour or arrival at Mateabrooj, to visit ship and ascertain by enquiry from the commander or doctor or other sources of information whether any person on board is suffering or has suffered from plague. May demand declaration on oath from doctor or commander.

VII.—Rules relating to infected ships. (1) Ships to await orders. (2) On arrival at sanitary station the sick will be disembarked and isolated. (3) The other persons on board shall also be disembarked and kept under observation for a period not exceeding ten days from the last case, in the discretion of the Health Officer. It is also in the discretion of the Health Officer to allow such persons to proceed to their destination on their giving an undertaking to submit medical surveillance. (4), (5), (6), (7). Provisions as to disinfection, pumping out of bilge water, and release of vessel.

VIII.—Rules relating to suspected ships. (1) To await orders. (2) Passengers and crew to be medically inspected. (3), (4), (5). Disinfection, etc. (6) Passengers suspected to be infected with plague may be detained in isolation hospital. (7) Crew not to land except on duty. (8) Passengers passed as healthy allowed to proceed to their destination on giving undertaking to submit to medical surveillance for ten days. (9) Release of ship.

IX.—Rules relating to healthy ships. (1) shall be given free pratique at once. (2) Such a ship

may, at the discretion of Health Officer, be subjected to the measures prescribed in rules VII. (2), VIII. (3), and VIII. (4). (3) Passengers suspected to be infected with plague may be detained under observation in isolation hospital. (4) Crew not allowed to land, except on duty, for ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port. (5) Crew and passengers may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be subjected to medical surveillance. (6) Release of ship. (7) None of these measures will be considered necessary when the ship has been granted free pratique at Colombo or other intermediate port.

X.—In exercising the discretion vested in him the Health Officer should take into consideration the fact of there being a doctor or a disinfecting apparatus on board the ship.

XI.—Crowded or insanitary ships may at the discretion of the Health Officer be treated as suspected ships under head VIII.

XII.—Ships objecting to these rules may put back to sea.

XIII.—If ships claiming the right to put back to sea desire to disembark passengers or land goods they must submit to the rules relating to suspected ships.

XIV.—Supply of provisions and stores to vessels in quarantine to be facilitated.

QUESTIONS.

Now that the Praya Reclamation has supplied the colony with wide streets and spaces suitable for statuary, would it not be well to further honour the memory of the late Sir Arthur Kennedy by removing his statue from its present place of obscurity in the Public Gardens to a conspicuous position in the town?

Is it not a fact that a site in the Gardens was selected only because there was at the time no suitable site for the statue in the town?

How many residents of less than ten years, standing in the colony have ever seen the statue?

Is it not a fundamental idea in the honouring of a man's memory by a statue that the statue should be placed in such a position that it will obtrude itself on the public notice instead of having to be sought for by those who know of its existence and wish to see it?

Were the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Chartered Bank amongst those that objected to the Bank of England's proposal to keep part of its reserve in silver?

If so, what is the policy of these institutions with regard to the white metal in the Far East?

What is the true inwardness of the recent circular to the members of the Civil Service with regard to communications to the Press?

When is the Legislative Council going to meet and let us know our fate as to taxation?

Will the Governor call the attention of the Secretary of State to the representations that were made by the unofficial members when the first and second loans were contracted in gold instead of silver?

Would the colony ever have been in the mess it is in if it had possessed some control over its own finances?

Is the construction of the Jubilee Road to be adjourned *sine die*?

What rate of interest is being earned by the Jubilee fund subscribed by the public?

Is the fund on deposit for three, six, or twelve months, or at call?

As the Hongkong Volunteers go into camp at Stonecutters' Island on the 9th October is it not advisable to hold the Benevolent Society's concert on Friday, the 8th Oct.?

Does not every member of the Corps hope that there will be an entire cessation of legal fights during the encampment so that Sir John Carrington may be able to spend the whole week with his men?

It is true that the *Camp Gazette*, which was such a great success last year, will be available to the general public this year?

The following movements in the Customs service are recorded by the *Shanghai Daily Press*:—Mr. Walter Lay has been transferred to Newchwang as Commissioner. Mr. P. G. von Mollendorff has been appointed Commissioner at Ningpo. Mr. Unwin has been transferred from Ningpo to be Commissioner at Chinkiang.

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN THE HARBOUR.

THE VICTIM OF A SUPPOSED MADMAN.

A most deliberate attempt to murder a sampan woman was made in the harbour on Thursday evening, 30th Sept. A police pinnace in charge of Police Constable Pyne was patrolling near Causeway Bay when shouts of distress were heard. The pinnace was at once steered in the direction from which the alarm was heard and just as a sampan was reached a man gave a jump, but instead of falling into the water he alighted on the pinnace. He was in an excited condition and his clothing bore many marks of blood stains. He was immediately placed under arrest and the police constable then boarded the sampan, where he found a woman, who turned out to be the prisoner's sister-in-law, lying in the cabin. She was apparently in great suffering and a cursory examination was sufficient to prove that her life was in jeopardy. She had three deep gashes on her face, one having cut away a portion of the flesh, while her skull was also badly cut. The woman was at once conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital, where she lies in a precarious condition. It is supposed that the injuries were inflicted with a chopper. The prisoner is believed to be mad, as a few weeks ago he tried to commit suicide by jumping into the harbour and his behaviour has lately been very strange. On 1st Oct. he was taken before the Magistrate and remanded. Later the woman's depositions were taken by his Worship in the presence of the prisoner.

A FUSS ABOUT 25 CENTS.

Mrs. Selina Long and Mrs. Catherine Watson are neighbours and they live in High Street. On 1st Oct. Mrs. Long sued Mrs. Watson for 25 cents, the value of one chicken. The debt was the smallest in the Summary Court list, but it took the longest time for a decision to be arrived at. For the sake of this paltry twenty-five cents thirty-seven minutes of the Court's time were occupied, to say nothing of the following list of people who, voluntarily or otherwise, were concerned in the case:—

One judge.
One judge's clerk.
One interpreter.
One usher.
One bailiff.
One plaintiff and three witnesses.
One defendant and one witness.
Two chickens in a basket.

Mr. Justice Wise tried his best to get the case settled out of Court, but the parties were obdurate and the case had to be proceeded with. The evidence showed that on Saturday last a chicken escaped from a coal house in the yard and fluttered near Mrs. Long's house. Mrs. Watson went out and picked up the chicken because, she said, it was hers. Mrs. Long on the other hand said it was her chicken and she would want 25 cents for it if Mrs. Watson kept it. Mrs. Watson refused to give up either the chicken or the 25 cents, and so it came to pass that the vital question was fought out in the Summary Court. Mrs. Long's story was considered by his Lordship to be more consistent than that told by Mrs. Watson and after repeating his regret that the parties had not taken his advice he gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs. It would be really interesting to know how much money has been expended on that 25 cents. Probably the ink and paper consumed cost more than the debt itself.

The case in which the owners of the Austrian Lloyd steamer *Melpomene* are suing the owners of the "Blue Funnel" steamer *Patroclus* for \$30,000 damages for injuries received by a collision between the two steamers during the storm of the 9th inst. was opened in chambers at Yokohama on the 14th September, before Mr. Justice Wilkinson, H.M.S. Acting Judge. Mr. Lowder appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. Walford for the defendants. Evidence was taken during the forenoon and afternoon, so as to enable the vessels to get away as soon as possible, but we (*Japan Mail*) understand that the matter was not settled.

BOXING TOURNAMENT AT THE CITY HALL.

CUSACK V. NORTHCOTT.
NORTHCOTT BREAKS HIS ARM AND WINS
IN THE NINTH ROUND.

A well managed boxing tournament always attracts a big audience. The one promoted by Mr. Harper, of the Stag Hotel, and held at the City Hall on Saturday evening, 2nd Oct., was no exception to the rule, the pit and the stage being crowded, while more than half the chairs in the dress circle were occupied. The principal attraction was the contest between Sergeant Instructor Cusack (Army) and Northcott (Navy) for a handsome trophy. The men had faced each other twice before, the first battle being won by Northcott and the second being declared a draw. On the present occasion it was decided to have a twenty-five round contest, but in the event of one of the men not being incapacitated at the end of the twenty-fifth round it was agreed that the contest should be continued to a finish. As events turned out the contest was not very long drawn out, as during the ninth round Cusack was wounded and he retired from the ring. At the conclusion of the bout the spectators learned for the first time that Northcott had broken his right forearm and had for some time relied on his left for both attack and defence. There is a considerable difference of opinion as to when Northcott's arm was broken. We were informed by several people who were on the stage and who saw Northcott after he had won that the mishap occurred in the second round, and this was confirmed by an inquiry we made at the Naval Hospital yesterday, so presumably Northcott himself thinks the accident occurred at that early stage of the game. But there are others who state that the bone was fractured during the fifth round, while one gentleman who was near the boxer at the time declares that he is positive it was the seventh round. One of the judges said it was the eighth round. We will not attempt to decide, in view of this conflict of opinion, which round witnessed the accident, preferring to leave the matter to be argued out by the experts themselves. When the fact of the fracture leaked out the people repeatedly expressed their admiration for Northcott's pluck in continuing to stand up to his opponent. It may seem somewhat extraordinary that a man with a broken arm should continue fighting and eventually win, but several such instances have been recorded. Many years ago Alf. Greenfield, of Birmingham, champion of England, met Wallace, of Edinburgh, champion of Scotland, in a championship fight. The men had not been long in the ring when the Scotsman dealt the Englishman a terrific blow which smashed Greenfield's right arm in two places. We forget for the moment how many rounds were fought after this accident, but we think the number was near twenty, and in the end Greenfield knocked his opponent out after having given a magnificent display of defence and attack with his sound arm. It is doubtful whether Cusack knew that his sturdy opponent was so heavily handicapped, otherwise he would doubtless have tried his best to keep in the ring. He looked very ill, however, at the finish and perhaps it was a physical impossibility for him to stand up any longer. He appeared to be in good trim up to the eighth round and many expressed the opinion that he had had up to then the better of the encounter, but on the other hand the opinion was also expressed that Northcott's blows were harder and better directed. However, Cusack succumbed to a heavy blow on the stomach, which rendered him quite helpless for several minutes after the decision was given.

The programme was opened with a four round exhibition spar between two Marines. The next item was a wrestling match between Lever and Cains, both of the West Yorkshire Regiment. This was a most interesting and stubbornly fought encounter and both men were frequently applauded. Lever threw his opponent in the first essay and again proved successful in the second attempt and so won.

A short interval was then taken and preparations were made for the great event of the evening. On the curtain being raised Mr. W. Farmer stepped to the front of the stage and

announced that there was considerable difficulty in obtaining a referee, but he hoped Mr. George, of Australia, would consent to act in that capacity. Mr. George, who was comfortably seated behind the scenes smoking a cigar, declined to come forward, notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of a number of friends and the shouts of "Come on, Georgie" from the sailors and soldiers. Mr. E. Robinson was then asked to become referee, but he declined the honour, and Mr. Farmer said nothing more could be done than to leave the decision to the two judges, Mr. James Goodchild and Sergeant-Major Severn, the latter of whom declared all his bets off. Mr. Robinson was again asked if he would referee, but he would not take the office. However, he consented to act as third judge. Mr. Farmer and a Mr. Macdonald held the time. All was now in readiness and the two combatants entered the ring. Northcott won the spin of the coin and of course selected the corner which gave him the advantage of the stage gradient. Both men seemed to be in good condition. Northcott wore blue knickers with a white stripe down the side, and shoes, his elaborately tattooed chest being bare. Cusack wore white knickers, singlet, and shoes. The men were well attended. Sergeant-Major Severn examined the gloves and a few moments later the seconds were ordered out of the ring and "Time" was called.

Round 1.—Cusack seemed to be very anxious to get to work and let off with a left hand smack. Northcott similarly replying. The sailor tried an upper cut, but Cusack dodged it and then dealt one or two full face blows. At the conclusion of the round Severn asked the men to hit higher; both men had played low once during the round.

Round 2.—Northcott got in a lively blow on the soldier's head and received a heavy one on the chin in reply. Some warm work was put in by both men and an appeal for a foul against Northcott was made. The appeal was in vain, but Severn told the sailor to "keep it up a little."

Round 3.—Northcott set the ball rolling and then became very wary. He carefully watched his opponent, but Cusack managed to get in some rather heavy blows, which, however, did not seem to affect Northcott very much. The sailor at length got in a beauty on Cusack's ear, the latter subsequently finding his opponent's jaw. Both men were playing a pit-a-pat game when time was called.

Round 4.—Cusack led off with a nasty blow on the sailor's neck, another on the jaw, and two on the right ear, but eventually Northcott gave Cusack a beautifully directed blow under the left ear.

Round 5.—Cusack again assumed the offensive and punished Northcott, who, however, warded off some stingers in splendid style, and finally hit Cusack full in the face.

Round 6.—The soldier got in his left five times in succession and then tried a heavy one on the ribs, but Northcott was on his guard and stopped the force of the blow. The sailor let out with full force at Cusack's face, the latter replying with three full facers.

Round 7.—Northcott's nose seemed to be feeling the effects of the blows, for he sniffed and seemed to be rather uncomfortable in that quarter. However, he played most gamely. Cusack got in a heavy body blow and another on the ribs. Northcott adopted defensive tactics and rarely let out.

Round 8.—Northcott again received punishment on the face and ribs, but he occasionally got in a well directed blow with the left which seemed to tell on Cusack.

Round 9 and last.—Cusack let out first, but the round had been in progress only half a minute when he received two heavy blows on the head and one in the stomach and it was apparent that he was in serious trouble. The last blow winded him and dropping his arms to his side he declared he could not continue, and after shaking hands with Northcott he left the ring evidently in great pain. Sergeant-Major Severn then declared Northcott to be the winner amidst loud applause.

Northcott cannot be too highly praised for his gameness in continuing the contest after having broken his arm. Cusack certainly gave more blows than he received but the defence of Northcott was always

sound and when he let out his blows were very telling. The winner was very tricky all through. He was pretty sure to find the spot when he struck, while Cusack, on the other hand, did not always land on the place he aimed for. He "telegraphed" some of his blows and he would no doubt have received very severe body punishment if Northcott could have effectively used his right hand.

After the men had left the ring Northcott was seen by a doctor and the injured arm was put in splints. He was then taken to the Naval Hospital.

The tournament concluded with two sparring exhibitions, which were more amusing than scientific. The arrangements for the tournament were admirable.

A SOLICITOR CHARGED WITH ASSAULT.

At the Police Court on the 5th Oct. Mr. H. J. Gedge, solicitor, appeared in answer to two summonses charging him with assault. The complainants were Wong Wau Leung, a clerk employed at the Kowloon Observatory, and Wong Man On, a medical student at the Alice Memorial Hospital. The summons taken out by Wong Wau Leung was heard first.

Wong Wau Leung said—I am a clerk in the Kowloon Observatory. On the 2nd instant, between 11 a.m. and noon, I went up to Mr. J. D. Humphreys's office in Queen's Road Central to see if any steamer was coming in. As I was leaving the premises I felt a blow on my stomach. I looked and saw the defendant. He had already passed me then. I went up to him and pulled him by the jacket at the shoulder and asked him why he had struck me. He turned round and struck me with his fist on the left ear. I told him not to use his hand any more. He then struck me on the nose with his fist, leaving a mark. My younger brother was with me at the time. He told the defendant not to strike me. Defendant struck him on the left jaw with his fist. My brother told the watchman at the door to call for a police constable. The defendant then stopped striking me. He told me to walk away. He wanted to go about his own business and I followed him. I met an Indian constable and told him to arrest the defendant. Defendant refused to go and I got his name and then went to the Police Station.

To the defendant—When I left Mr. Humphreys's office I was facing the north. One of my feet was outside the threshold of the door when you were passing me. I did not notice whether the street was blocked. You had a deed in your left hand. You struck me with the right hand. It is not a fact that I had got out two or three feet into the street and was walking westward and was looking over my shoulder at a placard. It is not a fact that I walked backwards into you, nor is it a fact that I put out my right hand and said "Where are you going?" I do not know whether you put out your arm to ward me off. I did not seize you by the jacket. I did not strike at you with both my fists and use bad language in English and Chinese. You struck me first. You did not strike me a back-hand blow with your left hand. My brother did not strike you with both hands. He simply lifted up his hand and asked you to stop. We did not both attack you and drive you through the portico into Queen's Road. The watchman at the Hongkong Dispensary did not say I had commenced the fighting. You did not purposely go up to the watchman to hear what he had to say. I did not use bad language in English or Chinese. You called me a Chinese cat.

Wong Man On said—I am a medical student at the Alice Memorial Hospital. I was with my brother (the complainant) about 11.30 a.m. on the 2nd October. I saw the defendant strike the complainant a back-handed blow on the stomach. My brother asked him what was the matter. The defendant then turned round and struck me on the left eye with his fist. My brother lifted his hand and told defendant to stop. Defendant struck me again on the nose with his fist. I went up to him and told him to stop and he then dealt me a blow on the left cheek. I called out for a policeman. Shortly afterwards an Indian police-

man came up and I told him I charged the defendant with assault. The defendant refused to go with the constable. Afterwards defendant gave his name and we took out a summons. I know the defendant by sight.

To the defendant—My brother came down the steps first. I was a step behind him. It is not the case that my brother was actually in the street and was looking backwards at a placard. My brother did not, while walking backwards, stumble against you. My brother did not hold your jacket; he simply had his hand on your shoulder. You said, "Get away, get away," but that was after you struck him in the face. We did not use our fists. You did not retaliate by giving a back-hander in the face. We did not compel you to retreat into the street. You got into the street, but we did not force you there.

This concluded the evidence for the complainant.

The Defendant made the following statement.—I was walking along Queen's Road from west to east. I had a deed in my right hand. There was a press of people in the street just outside Messrs. Humphreys's office. I had to slacken my pace in order to get through. I noticed a Chinaman or my right side. He was looking backwards at a placard at the door of Humphreys's office. He was walking slowly backwards and before I knew where I was he ran into me. I put out my right arm and he ran against my left forearm. I said, "Where are you going?" He turned sharply round, seized me by the collar on the right side, clenched his fist, and said "What is this, you son of a ——" I gave him two punches with my open hand and said "Get away, get away." He came at me with both fists to punch me as hard as he could. To repel his attacks I hit him a back-handed blow. He was swearing the whole time both in English and Chinese. His brother was also using both his fists. I retreated backwards into the street across the gutter. To keep them off I gave complainant two punches on the face with my left hand and his brother one punch. When the fight was over the men were most insulting.

Razak, a watchman at the Hongkong Dispensary, was called for the defence. He said—Some Chinamen were standing outside the Dispensary looking at a placard. The complainant and his witness were amongst the crowd. Defendant was using his hand in order to clear the way. I saw complainant turn round and catch hold of defendant's jacket. The defendant pushed the complainant's hands away. The complainant struck defendant on the left side of the face. The defendant struck him back on the face. They then commenced to fight and after some blows the affair ended. The men were walking slowly backwards. I do not know whether they used bad language or not.

At this point the case was adjourned until the 7th.

GREAT FIRE AT MANILA.

On the morning of the 28th September a great fire occurred in the walled city of Manila in the zone comprised within the streets of Solana, Santa Potenciana, and Magallanes. This is the first conflagration which has occurred in the walled city for the last fifty or sixty years. The houses destroyed were for the most part large and well built edifices. The fire broke out between a quarter and half-past two a.m. in a large house at the corner of Magallanes and Santa Potenciana Streets, which was subdivided amongst a great many tenants, mostly tradesmen. From this point it rapidly spread, and before it was subdued the following houses had been reduced to ruins:—Nos. 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35, and 36, 38, 40, and 42 of Magallanes Street, Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, and 2 and 4 Santa Potenciana Street, and 26, 28, and 30, Solano Street. The following houses were damaged by fire and water:—Nos. 37, 32, 44, and 46 Magallanes Street, No. 6, Santa Potenciana Street, No. 24, Solano Street, and Nos. 13 and 15, Real Street. It is said that only one of the houses was insured. Included amongst the buildings destroyed was the office of the Inspeccion de Montes, in which the archives were lost, it being impossible to save them, so rapidly did the flames envelop the building; the office of the Tercio de la Guardia Civil was also completely destroyed with all its

contents; and the offices of the Sociedad del Amigos del Pais was burnt out, but the books and papers of the Society were saved. We have been favoured with advance proofs of the *Comercio's* report of the catastrophe, which gives a graphic account of the progress of the conflagration and awards praise to the various corps that assisted in the work of subduing it. It was reported that one life had been lost in connection with the fire, but the report was not confirmed.

SUSPENSION OF QUARANTINE AT MANILA.

The following letter with its enclosure is published in the *Gazette*:—

British Consulate,
Manila, 20th September, 1897.

Sir,—I beg to transmit, herewith enclosed, copy of a decree, with translation, of the Governor-General of the Philippine Islands, with reference to the suspension of quarantine for vessels arriving from your port.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
E. A. RAWSON WALKER,
H.B.M. Consul.

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Hongkong.

(Enclosure.)

Translation.

Manila, 16th September, 1897.

Having received from the Consul for Spain at Amoy the pleasing intelligence that the bubonic plague has ceased to be prevalent at that port, now therefore I, acting on the advice of the Sanitary Authorities and by virtue of the powers in me vested, decree as follows:—

ART. 1.—Every ship arriving from Amoy, and sailed from that port after the 10th instant, which arrives in good sanitary condition will be allowed free pratique, in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the General Rules.

ART. 2.—Also free pratique will be allowed to ships under similar conditions arriving from Hongkong.

ART. 3.—Also in view of information received from the Consul at Formosa that the plague has ceased to be prevalent in that island, ships arriving from there will also be allowed free pratique.

Let it be circulated, published, and returned to the General Civil Administration.

(Signed) PRIMO DE RIVERA.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club was held on 2nd Oct. in the City Hall. Hon. C. P. Chatér, C.M.G., presided and amongst those present were:—Hons. J. J. Bell-Irving and T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. D. Gillies, R. M. Gray, C. Harton, and M. Grote (Stewards), T. F. Hough (Clerk of Course), Colonel The O'Gorman, Messrs. J. Y. V. Vernon, G. H. Potts, J. J. Francis, J. Macgregor Forbes, J. McKie, F. Maitland, H. Humphreys, C. C. Platt, Hart Buck, D. Landale, J. Bartrum, L. Suidter, P. A. Cox, W. D. Graham, W. Farmer, and I. P. Madar.

Mr. HOUGH read the notice convening the meeting and also the annual report.

The CHAIRMAN—The accounts of the past year on the whole, I think you will agree with me, may be considered satisfactory, although not so good as those of 1896. The actual working shows a falling off as compared with the previous year. Interest is in excess some \$900 over last year, but on the other hand we have received for rents of stands, etc., \$1,525, which may be placed against the increased interest. You will also observe that during the year we have made payments on account of new buildings, etc., \$21,571.17, and taking this sum together with that expended last year, viz., \$11,077.45, it shows the cost of the new buildings to stand in at \$32,648.62, including extras and fittings. There probably will be some further charges in perfecting the buildings, which the members may rest assured will be kept as low as possible. On this outlay, however, the stewards expect to receive a return, which they hope will more than cover the interest we are now paying on

our overdraft. The Club will then possess a most valuable asset in these buildings. You will again have to decide at this meeting whether the Gymkhanas shall be held next year under the same arrangements as last, namely, managed by the Gymkhana Committee, under the auspices of the Jockey Club. A report of the working will be given you by the Clerk of the Course, from which you will see that it is not only satisfactory, but has given a considerable amount of interest and pleasure to the community in general. I sincerely trust that our coming meeting will be as great a success as the previous ones. I am sure every member present will do his utmost to make it so. With these remarks, gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the adoption of the report and the Treasurer's accounts as presented to you.

Mr. SUIDTER seconded.

Carried.

Mr. HOUGH then read the following report of the Gymkhana Committee:—So far during the current season five gymkhanas have been held under the auspices of the Jockey Club. For one of them—the Jubilee Gymkhana—special arrangements were made, but the other four were managed as usual by the Gymkhana Committee. They were held on April 10, May 15, August 21, and September 25. At the moment, as the accounts are not closed, only approximate figures can be given, but I may mention that to-day the Bank account shows a credit balance of \$430.47, out of which there are payments to be made on account of last Saturday's gymkhana; at the same time, however, there are further subscriptions to come in, and I think the Committee may look forward to having a fair balance in hand at the end of the season. The date of the next and probably last gymkhana of the series is not yet fixed.

The CHAIRMAN said he would be glad to hear any proposition in regard to the ensuing year.

Mr. HART BUCK—I propose that the gymkhanas be run next year as they were this year, that is, by a gymkhana committee, under the auspices of the Jockey Club. I might remark that I think it would be advisable to spend a little of the money that is made at the gymkhanas on the inner course. It was understood that money made in this way would be expended on the course, and I think if this were done we should greatly benefit.

Mr. G. H. POTTS seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—With regard to your remarks, Mr. Hart Buck, I am sure that the stewards who are to be elected to-day will agree with them. I have just been informed that the monies are always in the hands of the Gymkhana Committee, and the only way the Club benefits is in the shape of a cup presented by the Gymkhana Committee on the occasion of the annual race meeting.

Mr. BUCK—I think, Mr. Chairman, you will possibly remember that the arrangement was made that the gymkhanas should be run under the auspices of the stewards, and that part of the money made should be devoted to the upkeep of the inner and outer courses during the season and another part to make a polo ground in the middle of the Happy Valley. Our present Clerk of the Course was at home then, but it must be within the recollection of the stewards that the arrangement was made.

The CHAIRMAN—No doubt your remarks will be taken heed of.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the election of stewards for the ensuing year. You will probably remember that at the last annual meeting a proposition was brought forward and carried unanimously, which proposition was in regular form confirmed at a meeting held a fortnight afterwards. By that resolution certain words were expunged from Article No. 9. I will read you Article No. 9 as it now stands, with the words expunged:—"The stewards shall be ten in number and shall be appointed annually. They shall be chosen by ballot from among the resident members of the Club at the general meeting of the members to be held in October of each year as hereinafter provided." The words expunged are "not being officers of the Army and Navy," which followed the words "resident members of the Club," so you are now permitted to elect as stewards officers of the Army and Navy, and the unanimous wish of

the members being that we should have an officer of the Army as one of the stewards for the last meeting we invited Colonel O'Gorman to become an honorary steward, and he did a great deal in helping the stewards to make last year's meeting as successful as it was. (Applause.) Amongst the stewards the only absentee is our worthy and much respected old colleague Mr. Atwell Coxon. (Applause.) His absence, gentlemen, I am sure, not only at this meeting, but at the annual race meeting, will be regretted by everyone present, not only by the stewards, but by every individual member of the Club. You have therefore now to elect the stewards in accordance with the altered article No. 9.

The following gentlemen were elected by ballot as stewards:—Hons. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., J. J. Bell-Irving, F. H. May, C.M.G., T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. R. M. Gray, C. F. Harton, T. Jackson, M. Grote, D. Gillies, and Col. The O'Gorman.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held in the cricket pavilion on 30th September. Mr. A. G. Wise presided over a very good attendance. The Chairman first of all wished the members a successful season and then repeated, on behalf of the Committee, the feelings of regret that had been expressed in the report in reference to the loss the Club had sustained by the departure from the colony of Mr. Atwell Coxon. Those who had had the privilege of his acquaintance and friendship for a number of years knew that it would be a long time before Hongkong saw a truer gentleman or a keener sportsman. (Applause.) The club was now in a satisfactory position, there being a balance at the bank. The expenditure had been heavy, but it was absolutely necessary. Speaking in regard to the forthcoming interport cricket week the Chairman said that as at present advised the Singapore team would arrive here about the 1st November and Shanghai about a week later. It was proposed to commence the cricket week on the 8th November. On the Monday and Tuesday in all probability Singapore and Hongkong would play, the next two days Shanghai and Hongkong, and on the last two days Shanghai and Singapore would meet. In adopting the report the members would inferentially agree that the new Committee should be allowed to spend some money in entertaining the visitors (applause), and he was quite sure the members would give the Committee a free hand in the matter. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Commander R. Murray Rumsey seconded.

Carried.

The following officers for the ensuing year were then appointed:—President, Mr. A. G. Wise; Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. A. Ram; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. Maitland; Committee, Colonel Gordon, Messrs. A. Anderson, T. Sercombe Smith, C. Inchbald, J. M. Atkinson, and A. Donald.

At an extraordinary general meeting held immediately after the ordinary meeting it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the Hon. Treasurer, seconded by the President, that Rule 12 should in future read as follows:—"The annual subscription for members shall be \$10 payable in advance on the 1st October in each year. Any member absent from the colony for 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from one year's subscription."

The hearing of the case against four coolies who were charged with the murder of a recruit named Tan Cheong by throwing him overboard the steamer *On Sang* whilst at sea, was concluded at Singapore on the 22nd September, the jury bringing in a unanimous verdict of guilty against No. 1, Leong Wah, and of not guilty against the other three, who were accordingly discharged. Leong Wah, who stoutly protested his innocence, and maintained that the witnesses had been paid to give false evidence, was sentenced to be hanged.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR OCTOBER.

There were sixteen entries for the cup and a like number subscribed to the pool:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. G. G. Veitch ...	115	21	94
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	105	8	97
Dr. J. Bell ...	113	15	98

POOL.

Commander Taylor, R.N.	102	11	91
Capt. R. M. Rumsey, R.N.	105	8	97
Dr. J. Bell ...	112	15	97

BEST SCORE CUP.

There were but twenty-five entries during the quarter for this competition, and the following are the only returns:—

Commander Cochran, R.N.	100	14	86
Mr. C. A. Tomes	100	8	92

THE HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The following is the report for the season 1896-1897:—

To the Members of the Hongkong Football Club:

The Committee have the pleasure to lay before you their report on the last season.

The accounts attached show a balance of \$124.33 to the credit of the Club on September 23rd last.

The following record shows the results of the matches played under Rugby and Association rules:—

Rugby	Lost	0	Points for	57
	Drawn	0	Points against	3
	Won	3		

Considerable assistance to the Rugby matches was given by the members belonging to the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Association	Lost	7	Goals for	37
	Drawn	5	Goals against	22
	Won	9		

Three inter-club matches have also been played under Association rules.

For specially good play in the Rugby matches, caps have been awarded to Messrs. M. D. Wood, W. Y. R., C. W. Gordon, W. Y. R., A. C. Paddy, and A. D. H. Grayson, R.A. For specially good play in the Association matches, badges were awarded to Messrs. E. H. Beazley, H. Pinckney, and H. W. Looker (captain).

The Club now consists of 107 members. During the year 28 new members were elected.

The season was closed by the third annual dinner at which 52 were present.

A Shield competition was inaugurated at the commencement of the season and as a liberal response to a request for subscriptions was made by the general public, a handsome massive silver Challenge Shield was purchased in England at a cost of \$350. From a balance sheet attached it will be seen that the Hongkong Football Challenge Shield account has a credit balance of \$176.60. The matches in connection with this competition were well contested and proved highly interesting. The Shield was won by H.M.S. *Centurion*, and their victory was popular and well-deserved.

The annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the Committee's report for the past season, and for electing the committee and officers for the forthcoming season, will be held in the Cricket Pavilion on Thursday, October 7, at 5 p.m.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, President.
E. E. DEACON, Hon. Treasurer.
G. H. POTTS, Captain (Rugby).
H. W. LOOKER, Captain (Association).
J. M. ATKINSON.
E. F. MACKAY.
P. G. DAVIES, R.A.
H. W. SLADE.
D. WOOD.

F. BROWNE,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 28th September, 1897.

At Singapore the other day three Chinamen were charged with counterfeiting. Amongst the coins seized were five imitation British dollars. Dr. Bott, the Government Analyst, said the coins were much too light, were made of tin with a little zinc or copper, and contained no silver whatever.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The thirty-first ordinary meeting of shareholders of the China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited, was held on 2nd Oct., at noon, at the Head Office of the Company. Mr. C. Beurmann presided and there were also present Messrs G. D. Böning, J. Thurburn, and A. J. Raymond (Directors), W. H. Ray (Secretary), D. Gillies, G. C. Cox, W. H. Wickham, E. C. Ray, and Captain Goddard.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts were circulated on the 17th of last month, and as they have doubtless received every attention at your hands, I will, with your permission, dispense with the formality of reading them. The statements set forth the position of the Company so fully that little remains for me to add, and this I consider is a satisfactory feature in the year's working. The premium collected varies but a small extent from the previous year's receipts, being \$14,000 less, whilst losses shew an improvement of \$46,000 and interest \$8,000. The net result is \$14,500 better than last year, which is all the more gratifying when the dislocations of commerce are considered, occasioned by the constant fluctuations of exchange, the plague and famine in India, and the uncertainty prior to the American presidential election. The balance at credit of working account is \$621,807.25, and your Directors have much pleasure in recommending the apportionment of this sum by the payment of a dividend to shareholders of 20 per cent. (\$5 per share) and bonus to contributors of business of 20 per cent., and carrying forward \$351,807.25, a distribution which I am sure will commend itself to you. No amount is placed to reserve fund this year, it being considered preferable to increase the amount forward. Since the closing of the Company's books silver has fallen considerably, exchange reaching the low figure to-day of 1/10½, increasing the silver value of your sterling holdings and amount standing in the report to the credit of exchange fluctuation account. The properties mortgaged to the Company have been reported on by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and they continue to give ample security for the loans advanced on them. These remarks cover all the important points concerning the Company's position, but before proposing the confirmation of the report and accounts I will be happy to afford any further information in my power that may be required.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. D. GILLIES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. G. C. Cox proposed the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. C. Beurmann, G. D. Böning, J. Thurburn, and A. J. Raymond as Directors.

Captain GODDARD seconded.

Carried.

Mr. W. H. WICKHAM proposed the re-election of Messrs. St. C. Michaelsen and A. J. Raymond to the Directorate.

Mr. E. C. RAY seconded.

Carried.

Mr. GILLIES proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries as auditors.

Captain GODDARD seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business before the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday next. (Applause.)

At the British Consulate at Shanghai on the 29th September a formal sitting took place of the Commission to take evidence in the suit of the Emperor of China v. Benneritz and Co., re the steamship *Ningchow*, in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. Mr. R. W. Mansfield is the Commissioner, and the proceedings consisted of the swearing in of Mr. Pitzipios as interpreter and Mr. T. Macdonald as Secretary. Mr. E. Blake appeared for the Emperor of China and Mr. H. P. Wilkinson for the defendants.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, on the 18th October, at 3 o'clock p.m.:

The General Agents and Consulting Committee have pleasure in laying before the shareholders the final accounts for the year 1896, and an estimate of the present year's underwriting to the 30th ultimo.

1896 ACCOUNT.

The balance at credit of this account is \$311,733.91, out of which the sum of \$247,457.69 has already been paid for a dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders, and a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors of premia. Subject to the approval of shareholders, it has been decided to dispose of the remaining balance of \$64,276.22 by paying a final dividend of \$6 per share, and carrying forward the sum of \$4,276.22 to 1897 account.

1897 ACCOUNT.

This account shows an estimated balance at credit of \$431,141.00.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Gubbay was appointed to the seat rendered vacant by Mr. Sassoon's departure from the colony. This appointment now requires the confirmation of the shareholders.

Messrs. Chater, Dalrymple, Gillies, Maitland, and Gubbay retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and W. H. Potts, the latter gentleman taking the place of Mr. A. Coxon, who has left the colony; and their re-election is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Agents,

Canton Insurance Office, Limited.

Hongkong, 4th October, 1897.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,500,000.00	
Amount paid-up	500,000.00	
Reserve fund	1,300,000.00	
Outstanding dividends	2,580.00	
Outstanding bonus	2,000.00	
Balance of 1896 working account \$311,733.91		
Less dividend of 10 per cent. paid to shareholders, and bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors of premia	247,457.69	
	64,276.22	
	\$1,868,856.85	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Cash, on current account with Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	2,673.14	
Fixed deposits:—		
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	150,000.00	
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	75,000.00	
Mercantile Bank of India, Limited	75,000.00	
National Bank of China, Limited	10,000.00	
Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited	50,000.00	
Mortgages	1,054,881.95	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures	94,000.00	
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures	68,864.57	
Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited, debentures	15,000.00	
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Limited, debentures	22,000.00	
Indian Government stock, (3½ per cent. loan, 1865)	113,162.44	
Indian Government stock, (3½ per cent. loan, 1842-43)	43,767.11	
Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886	68,094.19	
Interest accrued but not yet payable	26,413.45	
	\$1,868,856.85	

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1896.	\$	c.
To amount brought forward from last account	45,015.58	
To net premia received, less returns and re-insurances	1,170,024.87	
To interest	110,977.65	
To transfer fees	67.00	
	\$1,326,085.10	
By losses and claims paid	\$336,351.88	
By charges, including directors', auditors', and survey fees, agents' expenses, &c.	80,305.44	

By commissions	98,111.37
By exchange	1,582.50
By balance as above	311,733.91

\$1,326,085.10

ESTIMATE OF WORKING ACCOUNT TO THE 30th SEPTEMBER, 1897.

Dr.	\$	c.
To premia, less re-insurance	1,006,900.00	
To interest, received and accrued	85,000.00	
To exchange	227.00	
To transfer fees	14.00	
	\$1,092,141.00	

Cr.	\$	c.
By losses paid and outstanding	520,000.00	
By charges paid and accrued	64,000.00	
By commissions paid and accrued	77,000.00	
By balance	431,141.00	
	\$1,092,141.00	

THE SHANGHAI FEATHER CLEAN- ING CO., LIMITED.

The first general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at Shanghai on the 29th September, at the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. Mr. P. Arnhold presided, and there were present:—Messrs. E. Karbe, H. Schroeter, J. Nölting, G. Galles, F. Seitz, A. Edeler, J. M. Young, E. Hey, H. Lehmann, Pan Ching-poo, H. Heyn, Woo Sao-chin, and Ho Kin-chow.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, in conformity with German law read the register of shareholders, and explained that it was proposed to make an addition to the articles of Association by which, if the General Manager were not a member of the firm of Arnhold, Karberg & Co., or an employee of that firm, he must be elected by a two-thirds majority of a meeting at which two-thirds of the capital of the company was represented.

Mr. Heyn, whilst congratulating the company upon Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. being the General Managers, suggested that an addition should be made to the articles of Association to the effect that the General Manager should continue to be the *bona fide* holder of at least ten shares.

The Chairman said that at any time the shareholders could appoint a General Manager by getting together two thirds of the capital and carrying a resolution by a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Heyn thought it might be difficult to get so representative a meeting.

The Chairman, after some little discussion, accepted Mr. Heyn's amendment and it was incorporated in the resolution and agreed to unanimously.

Upon the proposal of Mr. J. Nölting, seconded by Mr. G. Galles, Mr. P. Arnhold was unanimously elected General Manager; and at the instance of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Schroeter, the following gentlemen were chosen to constitute the Board of Directors:—Messrs. Galles, Heyn, Karbe, and Nölting.

The Chairman said the shareholders would be pleased to hear that the works were progressing very favourably. The roof was on the main building and the sample room for feathers was nearly finished. The chimney was a good half way up. The feather cleaning machinery was nearly completed, but the other machines were not quite so far advanced. Towards the middle, or the end, of November they hoped to be in full working order.

Mr. Geo. McBain, the General Agent for the Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from the Estate:—"Fourth hole flowing 210 feet, third 340, both large quantity; exact quantity unknown. We are going deeper into both. My letter explains everything; everything going on well."

Shortly after leaving Tientsin the *Taishun*, which arrived at Shanghai on the 27th September, sighted two capsized junks, with several natives on board. The *Taishun* steamed close to them and the chief mate went over in a boat. He succeeded in taking off four men and a boy from the bottom of one of the junks, and four men off another. Holes had to be cut in the junks to liberate the men beneath.—*Mercury*.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, informs us that the Company has received advice from Mr. Bailey from Japan to the effect that he has accepted the terms for the sale of the Punjom concession and that he was leaving Yokohama for America on the 15th September to make the necessary arrangements.

MEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining managers by the s.s. *Australian*:

Mount Macdonald,
10th September, 1897.

Queen Mine.—The contractors for sinking the main shaft will complete their contract in a day or two, when the alterations to the poppet legs will be attended to and the sinking of an additional 50 feet started. When this is completed we propose driving for the reef at 365 ft. from surface, where we anticipate striking good and permanent stone.

Balmoral Mine.—The tributors on G. L. 5 are opening up on a new make of stone in which gold is showing but it will take some time to develop it. Work at the tunnel on G. L. 6 is progressing satisfactorily, but at present the ground is very hard, though it will improve when we get further into the hill.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following report from their mining managers by the steamship *Australian*:

Mount Macdonald,
10th September, 1897.

Eureka Mine.—In our last report we stated that a hole 2½ feet had been bored into the reef in the shaft, which showed gold. Since then we have continued breaking over to the footwall and find that the reef is 7 feet wide, with gold showing throughout. The breaking of the reef has somewhat retarded the sinking, but it was necessary to get over to the footwall to ascertain the width and expedite future operations. The reef is solid and well defined, and the prospect may be regarded as first class. The shaft is down 50 feet below the 200 feet level. Work at the 200 level is being confined to taking in a small stop at back of drive north and putting in main stall-timbers, 91 feet of which is now completed. A winze has also been started from the bottom of this level to follow the main shaft down as shown on plan sent you. Depth of winze 4 feet with reef 7 feet wide and showing gold. At the 150 feet level the drive north has been extended to a total of 139 feet; the last breaking down of stone showed good gold with reef 2½ feet wide. The drive south is now 45 ft. and width of reef from 3 to 4 ft. of payable character. The rise from this level has been connected with the air and mullock shaft, and this connection will ventilate the mine thoroughly and be of great value in future working. There are over 200 tons of stone at grass, large quantities ready to send up from the 150 ft. and 200 ft. levels and an unlimited supply in sight in the drives and stopes already opened up; but as stated in last report it was useless to attempt crushing with the old battery. It has now been all removed and new bed logs put in ready to receive the new boxes, &c., and but for the delay at the foundry, through having to make new patterns, the boxes would have been in course of erection. We hope to have them here very shortly, and no time will be lost in getting them in position. We expect to have it completed in a month's time. The steam boilers have been cleaned out and tested in accordance with the Government Regulations, the large engine taken to pieces, thoroughly overhauled, and repaired where necessary. The new tables for battery are made and ready to lay down and the Watson and Denny pans have been repaired and strengthened where required, and everything put in order for a long and successful

run. Sinking of underlay shaft on G. L. 105 is being continued with reef over 3 feet wide between two good walls. Further dish trials give improved prospects.

DECIMALIZATION OF BRITISH COINAGE.

It seems strange that a commercial nation like the British people should be content to allow years and years to go by, bearing with the trouble and indirect loss entailed by a faulty system of coinage; more especially so when that fault can to a great extent be set right with little trouble and at no inconvenience.

Amongst the numerous suggestions for commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was the placing of the coinage on a decimal basis, and the writer thinks that as a permanent memorial it was the best suggestion of all those proposed; for do we not to-day find some old coin the best and sometimes the only record of past civilizations, which had otherwise passed out of human ken?

We will, with the foregoing slight digression, return to the point at issue.

The British coinage, at present, stands thus:—4 farthings=1 penny; 12 pence=1 shilling; 20 shillings=1 pound sterling. There are, besides these, a number of additional coins, viz., the half-penny; the three-penny piece; the four-penny piece; the six-pence; the 2 shilling piece, or florin; the half-crown, or 2 shillings and 6 pence; the 4 shillings, or double florin; the crown, or 5 shillings; and the half-sovereign, or 10 shillings.

Now see the following tables! In the second, or proposed new table, is inserted a new coin termed a Victoria and intended to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the great Queen of that name, as it, likewise, forms the missing link required to place the coinage on a decimal basis without disturbing the existing currency; in fact a radical change without change, anomalous as it may seem.

OLD TABLE.	PROPOSED NEW TABLE.
1 pound sterling=20 shillings	1 pound sterling=10 florins
1 shilling=12 pence	1 florin=10 Victorias
1 penny=4 farthings	1 Victoria=10 cents.

Now, to explain the new table. The Victoria is a new nickel coin of the value of 2.4 pence, and the cents are the old farthings, ten of which would equal 2.5 pence, but they would now be declared to pass as cents till all are called in and reminted with cent, in place of farthing, stamped on them.

How do we stand now? Thus: we have introduced a new coin, the Victoria, a coin which would circulate in preference to the absurdly small three-penny and four-penny silver pieces, and have converted the farthing into a cent. The remainder of the coinage remains as before. What would this mean? Merchants would at once quote prices and keep their accounts in £ v. c. (pounds, Victorias, and cents) instead of £ s. d., thereby simplifying calculations and promoting trade with other countries where a decimal standard is in vogue and where they do not understand our present stupid system, except as one calculated to cause confusion; Queen Victoria would receive permanent commemoration; foreigners would cease to laugh at our perversity; finally a radical change would be quietly effected, for the other coins would still circulate at their face value. The Victorias should be made to weigh a fractional part of an ounce (say $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) for use as letter weights, and all other coins adjusted for use as weights as opportunities arose for reminting them.

DECIMAL.

THE S.S. "KIANGNAN" ASHORE.

Shanghai, 30th September.

The Chinese Trading Steamship Company, the owners of the s.s. *Kiangnan*, received a wire yesterday from Wuhu, stating that the vessel went ashore shortly after leaving that port on Tuesday night. From enquiries we learn that the vessel is badly ashore five miles below Wuhu, and the tow-boat *Kwongnang* was despatched from Shanghai at noon to-day to see what assistance she can render. The *Kiangnan*, formerly the *Adova*, is a vessel of 1,347 tons, and is in charge of Captain Inokai. She left Hankow on Sunday with general cargo, bound for Swatow and Hongkong.—*China Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE LINGCHI PROCESS AND ITS APPLICATION TO INFANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Not long ago the Shanghai papers informed us that a boy of fourteen was to be executed by what is known in China as the "slow and painful method," for the murder or manslaughter of his mother. In the British Legation at Peking I have seen a Chinese official *Gazette* translated into English, in which are enumerated the capital offences in China during a year and the punishments inflicted. I noticed that the punishment of lingchi was not particularly rare, and was carried out indiscriminately on men and women, frequently lunatics, who were guilty of parricide. Talking to a Chinaman, however, on the subject, he appeared horrified to hear of a boy of fourteen undergoing the punishment, and said it was impossible, being contrary to law. "Well," said I, "what will they do to him?" "They will keep him," he replied, "till he is sixteen, when the punishment will be carried out!" It would be interesting to know whether such is the case, as it sounds incredible. We comfort ourselves with the thought of the poor devil being drugged with opium, but I am assured that this is frequently not the case. Perhaps one of your correspondents learned in the ways of Chinese can supply some information on the point.—Yours truly,

HUMANITAS.

Hongkong, 26th September, 1897.

THE FROZEN MEAT TRADE WITH THE FAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—We are in receipt of a letter from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, dated 31st July, in answer to ours of the 26th June last, wherein we brought under their notice the absence of refrigerating space in their boats for the carriage of frozen meats. They now write to say that they acquiesce in our views and that in their new boats, now building, for the Australian trade they are making provision for carrying frozen meats. They hope to commence running about the beginning of the new year. We trust that our efforts in this direction may result in business beneficial to both countries.—We remain, yours faithfully,

FORD, RUTHVEN & CO.

Sydney, 8th September, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Judging from the letter which appeared in your columns to-day from Messrs. Ford, Ruthven & Co., Sydney, one would suppose that there has been public want of refrigerating space in the steamers plying between Australia and this, which the British lines had refused to meet, and that the Japanese is to be got to give the decadent Britisher the lead in this matter. So far, however, from this being the case I would mention that one at any rate of the British lines has had its steamers fitted up for several years now, with the latest refrigerating machinery and chambers of a size to carry considerable quantities of refrigerated meats, &c., over and above what is required for steamer's stores, and yet the public caterers, though well canvassed, have shown a surprising apathy about availing of this till the other day. There are many toothsome supplies to be got from Australia in the way of meats, game, and fruit, which would be a great boon to dwellers in the tropics, especially during the hot season, when the jaded appetite calls for something tempting, and if only those whose business it is to cater in such things were a little more enterprising, there are ample facilities at hand for the safe carriage of such supplies.—I am, yours faithfully,

RESIDENT.

Hongkong, 4th October, 1897.

The damage by fire to the coal mines in Hupeh is said to be not so serious as was at first believed.

DIRECTORS AND CHARITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—We weep at the crimes committed in the name of religion, but we seem to have no shame for the falsehood and fraud of which we are guilty under the pretence of charity. "Charity seeketh not her own;" but this is what I find in an extract from *The Statist* under the above heading in your to-day's issue:—"Clearly, therefore, the directors are bound not to pay away the company's money without the sanction of the company at a general meeting, unless in their honest opinion they think it would be for the benefit of the company to do so. It is not necessary that they should look for a money return for the money expended. They might obtain a very material and valuable return without any direct receipt of money." In my opinion what a man gives in charity should be his own individual, spontaneous, and private act, and directors of Companies have no right to give away the money of others for any purpose outside the business of the company.

W.

Hongkong, 5th October, 1897.

DISCONTENT AT SINGAPORE.

Singapore, 23rd September.

Various rumours of an alarmist character are being circulated in connection with the inflammatory Chinese placards that were found last Sunday. These rumours are very silly rumours, and as baseless as they are silly. It should be hardly necessary to declare that the Queen's Forces at Singapore are strong enough to deal, and to deal swiftly and fully, with any trouble that any body of Chinese might create. The Government is strong, and can afford, therefore, to consider any grievances that may be brought before it. No doubt, it should be made abundantly clear that the Government cannot and will not be coerced by sedition or threats of sedition on the part of people who, rightly or wrongly, consider themselves aggrieved. It will be a sorry day for such men if they attempt to stir up riot in this colony. Yet, as we pointed out at some length yesterday, there are some real hardships suffered at the present time by the poorer classes in Singapore, and it is the duty of the authorities, as far as in them lies, to alleviate or remove these hardships.

With regard to the closing of the wells by the Municipality, another aspect of that particular matter has been pointed out to us. When the wells in these coolie lodging houses were closed, and Municipal water was laid on, the burdens of the owners were, of course, increased, but they recouped themselves by making every coolie pay so much more a month for his lodging. Then the Municipality discovered that, on the basis of the rent, the sum paid for the water was altogether out of proportion to the quantity used, and they accordingly insisted upon meters. These meant a much larger charge upon these ignorant people for a prime necessary of life, and the whole operation, from the closing of the wells onward, is viewed by them as a taxing process. The point of the incident is that these people believe their wells have been closed in order to enable the Municipality to increase the Municipal water revenue. They believe that they have been subjected to a common Chinese "squeeze," and, really, looking at the facts, their belief, from their standpoint, is a natural one. The Municipality were not exactly to blame, though, perhaps, they should not have been in so great a hurry to see that these coolies paid for every drop of water they consumed. We want, first of all, to cleanse these people and improve their habits for their own sakes, and for the sake of the general health of the community. Questions of revenue are entirely secondary in this connection; and it is hardly a fair answer to the complaint of hardship: that the people, if they do not want water laid on, can go to the public standpipes.

While these hardships are troubling the poor, and while their food is very dear, it is unfortunate that the Government should have fixed upon October first as the day upon which certain clauses of the Copper Coin Ordinance are to come into force. On and after that day, it will be illegal to circulate copper coin other than that of the Straits Settlements, and total confiscation of such coin is one of the penal

ties. It is a law that is desirable in the interests of the currency, but it is a law whose enforcement at this moment would cause much inconvenience, confusion, and loss. Just now, when the food of the people is dear, it will be a great hardship to render useless, by proclamation, coins which for years have been in circulation in the Colony. In all the circumstances, would it not be well that the Government should accept these coins for, say, a week, at a slight discount—a very slight discount. The Straits Government might, then, at a very small loss, prevail upon the Governments of British North Borneo and Sarawak to take over the coins of their respective States. The Governor, as High Commissioner for British North Borneo and Sarawak, would no doubt be able to carry through the transaction successfully.—*Straits Times*.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Singapore, 4th October, 11.55 a.m.

The threatened riots have not occurred.

[Seditious placards, in Chinese, were recently posted at Singapore inciting to a rising, and inquiry disclosed the existence of considerable ferment. Yesterday was the day fixed for the proposed rising, but the precautions taken by the authorities to cope with it if it occurred have apparently overawed the instigators.]

THE "COPTIC" IN COLLISION.

By the O. & O. s.s. *Coptic* information is to hand of a collision which took place at Kobe on 22nd inst. between the *Coptic* and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamer *Minatogawa maru*. The *Kobe Chronicle* says it affords another illustration of the danger of allowing the Osaka steamers to run at full speed in the harbour. The *Coptic* was coming in from Yokohama, while the smaller steamer was going at the usual rapid rate in the direction of Osaka. At the time of the collision the *Coptic* was coming around the *Biojuni-maru*. The *Coptic's* whistle was repeatedly blown, but no notice appeared to be taken of the warning by the *Minatogawa* until the steamers were close upon each other. Both then went full speed astern, but the Osaka steamer in dropping an anchor slackened off enough chain to allow her to run into the *Coptic*. The latter had two or three plates broken near the bow, while the Osaka steamer also sustained some injury.

HOW THESE CHRISTIANS LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

A MAN-OF-WAR TO SEPARATE THEM.

Shanghai, 25th September.

We regret to learn that the Christian converts of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Missionaries at Taichow, near Ningpo, are again in each others' hair and in proof of their Christianity are killing and maiming each other—to show their religious fervour. Considering the policy openly pursued by Drs. Ross and Ashmore and the "meek and lowly" advice given by the Rev. Mr. Mason (the author of the vile "Clio Club" papers published some years ago in a Shanghai evening paper) in the current number of the *Chinese Recorder*, this deplorable state of things is not to be wondered at. We understand that the British authorities largely blame the Protestant converts for the state of affairs prevailing in the Ningpo district. So serious has the situation become that H.B.M.'s *Pigmy*, with Consul G. W. H. Playfair on board, left Ningpo at 10 o'clock yesterday morning for the scene of the disturbances and with the object of restoring Christian harmony by the aid of naval force if necessary. Truly a beautiful comment upon the blessings which the bigotry of Christians bring to the poor heathen! It makes one sick of the whole hopeless business. We understand that there has been loss of life on both sides, but the affair is a purely Chinese row, native Protestant villagers against Catholic villagers. It is not easy to see when Western diplomacy or British gunboats can come in. We should say better let them fight it out in peace and quietness.—*China Gazette*.

FOREIGN EDUCATION IN HUNAN.

We have frequently of late commented upon the strange and significant fact that in no place in China is the desire for western knowledge so keen as in the erstwhile recalcitrant and reactionary home of Chinese conservatism—Hunan. In that province the Literary Chancellor Kiang, and the President of the famous Yolu school, Mr. Wan, are assiduously striving to spread the rudiments at least of European learning, and we are told that at the recent examinations the students, who had been led to expect to find in the papers set before them some subjects of western learning, were greatly disappointed that all such favourite topics were omitted by their examiners. The students were not slow to express their intense dissatisfaction at the omission, the subjects chosen being all the time-honoured Chinese classics and nothing else. Mr. Wan has recently obtained permission from Chien, the Provincial Governor, to establish a new academy where western science will be taught in addition to the venerable and moss-grown Chinese curriculum. The local gentry are giving a hearty support to the school.—*China Gazette*.

RUSSIA'S HOLD ON CHINA.

From Peking we learn that since the date of the edict sanctioning the construction of the railway line to Manchuria from Shan-hai-kwan, the many syndicate-wallahs now operating (or rather we should say) wishing to operate in China, have come forward, offering to lend the money wanted for this purpose. They have, however, been told by the authorities that by the terms of agreement with Russia it has been stipulated that should China be unable to construct the line without borrowing money she can do so; but that should she be unable to do so, Russia reserves to herself the exclusive right to lend the amount upon terms that have been agreed to between the two Governments.—*China Gazette*.

FOOCHOW MACHINE-MADE TEAS.

The Secretary of the Foochow Tea Improvement Co., Limited, Mr. W. P. Galton, writes to the *Echo* under date 24th September as follows:—

"In asking you to publish the following reports from the Secretaries of the Hongkong, and Shanghai Chambers of Commerce on our machine made teas, it may interest some of your readers to know, that during this month, the only one in which the whole of our plant has been available, we shall have turned out about 215 piculs machine-made tea. Leaf gets scarce in September, or we could have done more; and now that the factory is complete, and the natives willing sellers of green leaf, the prospects of the Company for the future are cheering."

Report on three musters of machine-made teas from the Foochow Tea Improvement Co., Limited.

No. 1 Broken Orange Pekoe.

Small leaf with golden tips: less broken than consisting of small (immature) leaf: infusion bright, but not so coppery as that of Indian and Ceylon. Liquor clear and of reddish brown colour: malty cured with dull strength but lacking flavour.

No. 2 Orange Pekoe.

Even leaf, fair make, with some orange tips: infused leaf, same complexion as No. 1—good thick liquor, with malty character.

No. 3 Pekoe.

Rather bold light leaf: good clean infusion, fair strength.

Remarks.

From every point of view, these teas are much nearer in character to Indian and Ceylon than they are to China Congou. The liquor is much heavier than that of China Congou, but they lack point and are susceptible of further improvement.

(Signed), ALEX. CAMPBELL.
J. W. HARDING.

Shanghai, 2nd Sept., 1897.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

A Wuchang despatch reports that H. E. Sheng is expected in that city on the 15th of October to settle with Viceroy Chang the date for commencing work on the Grand Trunk Railway. Considerable material for making the road bed is already collected near Hankow and a number of navvies have been engaged to begin work as soon as instructions arrive from Wuchang.—*N. C. Daily News*.

EARTHQUAKE ON THE BORNEO COAST.

The following telegraphic news has been kindly put at the disposal of the Singapore papers by the General Manager E. E. A. T. Co. It is from the Superintendent at Labuan:—

An earthquake has been felt at Kudat on the 21st.

A slight tremor was observed at several places along the coast.

About same time a new island was thrown up from the sea between Mempakul and Lambeidan fifty yards from mainland opposite Labuan.

The island composed of clay and rocks, measuring two hundred yards by one hundred and fifty yards and sixty feet high, appears to be increasing in size. It emits inflammable gas in several places, with a strong smell of petroleum gas.

The earthquake was not felt at Labuan.

PERIPATETIC SENATORS ON THE SILVER QUESTION IN CHINA.

Senators Pettigrew (South Dakota), Cannon (Utah), and Dubois (Idaho), who are travelling in China and Japan, studying the Silver Question, have returned from Peking to Shanghai. A representative of this paper waited on the Senators to learn what progress they had made. Senator Pettigrew said that the visit of the Senators to Peking had put them in the possession of much valuable data, which will prove of great service to them in the future, and which will be enhanced by having been gathered on the spot in place of that culled from other sources, which however trustworthy cannot take the place of personal investigation.

When asked what the Senators did at Peking Senator Pettigrew said:—"We had several extended conversations with very many of the leading and most influential Chinese officials. The result of these conversations was that we were assured that China will adhere to the silver tael as a basis for her currency, and that it is now seriously contemplated by the Imperial Government to establish a mint for the free and unlimited coinage of silver into taels, which will be legal tender, and which will be receivable for all Government dues.

Questioned as to who were the principal officials with whom the Senators had these conversations, Senator Pettigrew said "I do not care to quote anyone," and Senator Dubois added: "The conditions in this country are so very different to those of our own that we think it would be improper to quote anyone at all during our visit here. In the United States a public man is open to and expects criticism, but we have enjoyed so much hospitality that we would not offend against the customs of the country, against criticising indirectly those in official power."

Senator Pettigrew said: "We are of opinion, formed largely upon what we have gathered, that China will readily and promptly join the United States in a bi-metallic agreement. The United States, however, has waited long enough for international action, she has looked to Europe for a long time, and looked in vain, and now she must act alone. We now look not to international action for relief nor to the Tariff Bill as a panacea. Senator Cannon voted against the Bill; Senator Dubois and myself abstained from voting. We two knew that by voting against it we could not defeat it, and therefore, I, personally, declined to vote at all on the measure. But I believed then, and said so at the time, that it was a most iniquitous measure and that the Republican party, should they agree to its passage should also take upon themselves the responsibilities of the con-

sequences. The Tariff Bill has been tried, it is found wanting; but when the next election takes place it will be seen that it has exerted a most potent influence upon the future policy of the Democrats and materially strengthened the free silver platform. Then the promises of President McKinley's Cabinet will be assessed at their true value—even if they are not already fully appreciated by the moderate silver men, who were only induced to record their votes on the distinct understanding that the Cabinet would arrange for an international agreement on the Silver Question. We hope, therefore, to be in a position to deal with this question when the time shall come, fully prepared to speak those things which we know and to testify of that which we have seen; hence our visit to Peking. Returning to the Tariff Bill, we were convinced before we left the United States, and have been greatly strengthened in our belief since we were in Japan, of the folly of the Bill, as exemplified even in the taxing of straw braid, silk, tea, matting and other peculiarly Eastern manufactures and products; and all we have seen in China has only added to our objections to the measure as a specific for the ailment under treatment. We visited the Ming Tombs and also the Great Wall; we saw what China had been, we are convinced what she may yet be if she now seizes this her latest "golden" opportunity placed before her by the adoption of the gold standard by Japan.

"While at Peking and thereabouts, we saw something of railway construction and equipment, and can thoroughly congratulate our Chinese friends on the excellence of their judgment in that now they have at last decided to have railways they are profiting by the experience and experiments of the past, and are going to run their railways on the most approved modern principles.

"We leave here for Hankow in a couple of days, but Senator Cannon returns to the United States direct from here. On returning from Hankow, Senator Dubois and myself will resume our investigations in Japan."—*Mercury*.

RUSSIAN PROGRESS IN MANCHURIA.

KIRIN, A RUSSIAN GARRISON TOWN.

That Northern Manchuria is falling fast into the hands of Russia is only too evident to anyone who may have recently travelled through that part of China. The advance guard of some thirty Russian officers and men arrived in Kirin in Russian buggies and Chinese carts at the end of August, since which date they continue turning up in fives and sixes, thus rapidly transforming the Chinese provincial capital into a Russian garrison town. They are quartered in the different large hotels in the city and they have come to stay, as their wives are on the way to join them. They say it is on account of the railway that they come so far south, but according to the latest survey the line is to run from near Poltava and pass through the cities of Ninguta and Petuna and will not touch Kirin at all, in fact the nearest point will be some 800 li off. This line, known as the Chinese Eastern Railway (after all what's in a name!), was officially commenced on the 28th August at Stanista, in the presence of Governor-General Soubotisch and Chinese mandarin Tai, together with Russian and Chinese local officials. The money for the undertaking is all found by the Russians. They have a very good excuse for bringing troops into the country, for some two months ago a small party of Russians crossed the border and one was killed by a shot from a Chinese robber, so they intimated to the officials that if they could not protect their guests then the necessary steps would be taken by the Russians themselves, which at present are being carried out to the extreme. The smarter Chinese are studying the Russian language as hard as possible; they foresee the near future. The school opened in Kirin is crowded; the teachers are Chinese who have resided many years in Siberia and are said to speak Russian well. Every foreigner who turns up in any of the big cities is at once put down as a Russian; frequently he will be addressed in this tongue by a celestial who wishes to show his ability. Some Russian mer-

chants brought goods to Kirin in steam launches via the Amur and Songari rivers. The Governor-General at once prohibited the landing of the cargo on the plea that Kirin was not a treaty port. A wire was at once sent to Vladivostok and in a few weeks a high Russian general arrived in another launch, anchored off the Governor-General's yamen and demanded that the Russian merchandise be landed and sold without any interference. It is needless to say the Chinese official had to "climb down." The Russians are all over the country, making sketches and taking observations just wherever they please; they are thus busily engaged in the outskirts of Kirin. It is well to note that a high British official, a soldier, has found it convenient to spend a few month's holiday in this particularly interesting (at present) part of China.

ROBBERS.

The further North one goes the more disturbed seems the country. The people are poor, and therefore turn their hands to robbery and brigandage, although there are decidedly traces of rebellion as well. These bandits are well armed with rifles and swords and are generally mounted; but whence they are supplied with ammunition, &c., is a mystery. Above five months ago, the Russians sent a cart containing 1,200 taels of silver to Kirin under escort of five armed representatives of a Chinese insurance or guarantee company. Robbers were encountered and the whole of the silver was seized; during the scuffle one insurance man was killed and two others wounded. Now the Russians are pressing the Governor-General of Kirin to make the loss good; he in turn comes down on the poor insurance company, although it is a known law in China that their responsibility ceases as soon as a man has been killed which is a proof that they have done their duty. The most laughable robbery took place last China new year when the Governor-General himself sent a large consignment of silver to his home and the whole was captured. This silver being ill-gotten gains, he could not send an escort, nor dared he mention anything about the robbery, nevertheless it eventually leaked out. The officials are using very stringent measures to capture these brigands, as a result, every day cartloads of them, youths, middle-age and grey haired men, heavily shackled with iron chains and wooden stocks, may be seen entering the city from all points of the compass. Some natives say that about two thousand are beheaded annually, whilst others compute that three to four thousand in the one city of Kirin alone would be more correct. To give an instance; during one week in August batches of thirty-two, then ten and afterwards twenty-seven were decapitated, but a month previous to this there was a record execution of fifty-nine. A very wealthy Chinaman in Kirin dare not venture outside the city walls, for he asserts that he would be immediately captured and held for a high ransom. Such is the state of the country up North; the natives are very insolent and ill-natured; a Russian occupation would perhaps be the best thing which could happen, as it might stay an otherwise very probable rebellion.

MOUKDEN.

Natives report that the Governor-General has ordered from one of the Shanghai Dockers for the sum of Taels 14,500 one shallow drafts steamer and also a launch for navigating the Liao river, the vessels to be delivered in the spring, the Dock Co. undertaking to repair any breakdown for the term of two months. Robbers are also very plentiful in the province of Feng-tien and executions are of more frequent occurrence than hitherto, averaging about five heads a day in Moukden. A week ago they caught a young rebel chief (that is what he called himself) together with his wife, concubine, two daughters and a son. If he will insist that he is a rebel then the whole family will suffer the death penalty, but should he confess that he is merely a robber that disgrace will only fall on himself. The crops of millet, wheat, etc., between Kuan-chen-tsz, Kirin and Moukden could not be better than they have been this year; probably on account of the exceptionally dry season.

NEWCHWANG.

Three months have made a great change in the appearance of this place; the fine hospital is nearly completed and the assembly rooms are in the same stage. An iron wind-mill for grinding wheat and sawing purposes, imported from America by an old resident, also helps to improve this desolate port, besides giving the Chinese a good deal of amusement. On the night of the 23rd a terrific north wind swept over Newchwang, such as has not been known for many years, damaging property to a considerable extent. Some hundred feet of brick wall, enclosing Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s compound, facing the river, were razed to the ground. Huge trees were uprooted, and in the river bean-boats were capsized. The next morning's daylight showed only too plainly what havoc had been wrought in the short space of a few hours. The little settlement was covered with debris from trees and houses. Strong iron bars were bent out of shape by the wind. The wild geese and duck were evidently startled by the storm for they could be seen in thousands during the forenoon, going in all directions.—*China Gazette* correspondent.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 1st October.

As I mentioned some time ago, the Government voted the sum of \$7,500 for the dredging of the harbour, and this sum is now being expended, or rather thrown away. The dredger at first was set to work near the steamer wharves, but about a month ago was transferred to the entrance of the inner harbour, where it has since been working, but it may work and work for ever, but it will not do any good if things continue as at present, for close by the colony's rubbish is being dumped by the conservancy contractor's men. On the left side the dredger is at work, in the centre are anchored the two men-of-war, and on the right, some thirty or forty metres from the west side of Lappa village, the colony's rubbish is being dumped and is forming up into small islands. It is like a children's game, and soon the whole harbour will be silted up. Who is immediately responsible for allowing the continuance of this state of things I cannot say, but I should think some responsibility must rest on the Harbour Department to report any thing tending to injure the harbour. The Leal Senado is responsible for the disposal of the town's rubbish and ought to be called upon to exercise proper control over its contractor.

The King's birthday was celebrated this year with much display. At eight o'clock in the morning the royal standard was hoisted at Government House and was saluted by Monte Fort. At twelve o'clock another royal salute was fired by the Monte, Barra, S. Francisco, and Mongha Forts. At half-past two there was a reception at Government House, after which divine service was held at the Cathedral, at which there were present all the public servants, the Consuls, and the Commander and officers of the British gunboat *Phoenix*, which had come over for the occasion. The *Phoenix* and the other vessels were all duly decorated. After the service the *feu de joie* was fired, and the Monte Fort responded with a royal salute. In the evening the town was illuminated and a soiree was held at Government House, which was most successful and enjoyable except that the temperature was not very favourable to dancing. It was about half-past three when the guests left.

It is said that the action brought by the Fernandes family against Cassum Moosa, an Indian cloth seller, for an alleged debt of \$4,000, has been decided in favour of the defendant, on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction. The Fernandes family, I hear, are now going to proceed in the Hongkong Court. Cassum Moosa had his ship closed for about nine months by order of the late Chief Justice, Dr. Fornellos, and the question now is, who is going to indemnify him, for he will no doubt claim damages.

The Shanghai Autumn Regatta is fixed for the 25th and 26th inst., to be held at Pootung, the races finishing at the Signal Station.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Ground nut oil is exceedingly dear in Canton, the crop in a good many districts having failed this year. A picul of ground nut oil is sold for three taels odd and a catty for one mace and two candareens.

H.E. Chang Yen-woon, the Ambassador to Great Britain for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, paid official calls on the Viceroy, the Tartar General, and the Governor on the 26th September. His Excellency was invited by the local officers to a dinner in the Kwang-Ah College on the 28th. It is said that His Excellency will leave for Peking in a few days.

A quantity of guns and ammunition, made in the Nankin Arsenal, was sent to the province of Kwangsi from Canton by the gunboat *Kwangsi* a few days ago. They were ordered by the Governor of Kwangsi for local protection.

Robberies in Canton and in the neighbouring districts have been frequent of late and it is dangerous for any one without weapons for self-defence to travel by land or water. Robbers are everywhere. Large bands often break into well-to-do family houses even in broad daylight to commit robberies, and young girls are often kidnapped by force. Reports after reports of robberies and kidnapping have been made to the local Magistrates, who always promise to hunt out the offenders, but their promises are very seldom fulfilled. Really some of the policemen and some military officers are themselves robbers and some military officers are willing to accept bribes from the criminals. Sometimes robberies are committed under the very eyes of the soldiers and policemen, who pretend to be deaf and blind, so that the robbers often get away scot free. On the 24th September a junk towed by a steam launch running between Canton and Chat-hum was robbed at Kiang-mun in front of a likin station, while near by lay a guard boat at anchor which was especially placed there by the Government for the protection of passing boats. When the robbery occurred, the people of the junk shouted out loudly for assistance, but no one either from the likin station or the guard-boat came forward to effect the capture of the robbers, who all safely got away with their spoils. On the evening of the 24th another junk towed by a steam-launch and laden with a large cargo of raw silk was robbed at the place named Yung-ki in Suntak district. Some well dressed robbers got on board the junk as passengers. When the junk was sailing near Yung-ki, a robber went to the bow of the junk and fell intentionally into the water under the pretence of carelessness. The other robbers on board then forced the master to stop and pick up the man in the water. When the junk stopped, a long boat with a number of robbers rowed out to her. When all the robbers got on board the junk, they forced the coxswain of the steam-launch towing the junk to steam to Chiu-tow-shan, where they landed, carrying away all valuables and the raw silk from the junk.

There are now two very notorious robbers named Lo and Tong, brothers of robber Chang Wan, who was fatally shot last year in Fa-un district, who have several hundred robbers under their influence. They often send robbers with their name cards to demand money by force from the shops and the rich families in that district, threatening that if their demands are not complied with they will come in large bands to plunder them. No steps have been taken by the officers to get rid of them.

HONGKONG.

Another typhoon came near the colony on Tuesday, but fortunately beyond a stiff breeze and some rain we felt no effects from it. The Douglas steamer *Namoa* struck a sunken rock at the entrance to Haitan Straits on Sunday last during rough weather. The vessel, which was a well known coaster, will doubtless become a total wreck. Eight Chinese were drowned, the captain and crew being saved. On Thursday night a madman attempted to murder a woman in a sampan lying in the harbour. An interesting boxing tournament was held at the

City Hall on Saturday night, the principal event being a boxing contest to a finish between Cusack (Army) and Northcott (Navy). Northcott broke his arm, but in the ninth round he knocked out his opponent.

We hear that a refrigerating engine and gear are being sent out for H.M.S. *Centurion*.

There were 2,179 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 198 were Europeans.

A Shauiwan boatman was fined \$10 at the Police Court on 4th Oct. for having dynamite in his possession without the necessary permission.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's flag was at half-mast on 30th Sept. on account of the death of Mr. W. de St. Croix, the firm's representative at Canton.

On Saturday afternoon a labourer was engaged in repairing the New Club in D'Angilar Street when the ladder on which he was standing slipped, the result being that the man fell heavily to the ground. He sustained serious injuries and was taken to the hospital.

H.E. Chang Yen-woon, who represented China at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, has returned from Canton and is at present staying at the Chai On Insurance Company's Office. He will, we learn, leave with his suite for Shanghai by the *Thames*.

On 30th Sept fifteen Indian constables were dismissed from the Police Force by order of His Excellency the Governor for having received bribes from the keeper of a gambling house in Wa Lane. A man employed in the house picked out the constables as men to whom he had paid money.

The local branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China on 1st October received a telegram from the head office informing them that at the approaching meeting of shareholders the directors will recommend a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum free of income tax.

On the 4th October Mr. C. C. Malsch, Superintendent of Crown lands, sold by auction a piece of land, containing 6,750 square feet, near the pumping station at Yaumati. The annual rent is \$100. The upset price was \$2,363 and the highest bid was \$3,000, for which sum the lot was sold to Mr. Li Yau. The purchaser intends to erect ten Chinese houses on the site.

From the letter of Messrs. Ford, Ruthven & Co. published in another column it will be seen that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha intend to provide refrigerating space in their boats on the Australian run. This will no doubt lead to the establishment of a trade with the Far East not only in frozen meat but also fruit and other table delicacies.

"The bad little boy" has caused serious trouble in Hongkong. A youngster was so designated by a woman living in Centre Street, and the remark resulted in a quarrel between her and the boy's mother. Both women were at the top of the stairs at the time and as a result of a push, from the mother it is said, the other woman fell down the stairs and died. The mother was charged on 29th September with causing the death, and the case was adjourned for further evidence to be called.

On the night of the 1st inst., as the river boat *Sikong*, of Messrs. Tung Kee & Co., was anchored at Cheung-sha-wan in company with the *Powan*, she was run into by the steam-launch *Wing Kwai*, which was trying to cross her port bow with the schooner *Kut Sing* in tow. The damage sustained by the *Sikong* was apparently not of a very serious nature as she was able at 11 p.m. to proceed on her voyage to Canton and return to Hongkong on the following day. She is now undergoing repairs at Hungghom.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong Colts Athletic Association was held in the Gymnasium of the Victoria Recreation Club on Monday, 17th Sept. There was a fair attendance. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. R. F. Lammert, the chair was taken by Mr. C. T. Kew, who read the report of the past year and submitted a statement of accounts, which were unanimously passed. The following officers for the coming season were then elected:—Chairman:—R. F. Lammert. Hon. Secretary:—W. W. Toller. Hon. Treasurer:—A. E. Alves. Committee:—(Cricket):—R. F. Lammert (captain), L. A. Rose, P. Hyndman, J. H. Gubbins (Capt. junior team). (Football):—C. T. Kew (Captain), J. M. E. Carvalho, T. Yule, R. Henderson.

Kwang Wo, compradore, of 52, Queen's Road East, was on 29th Sept. fined \$50 for adulterating coffee with 30 per cent. of chicory. Sanitary Inspector Cotton purchased the coffee from the shop specially for analysis.

At the Police Court on 29th Sept. Edgar Hume, engineer on the *Empress of Japan*, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Hongkong Hotel and assaulting the bar boy and the bill collector. The defendant wanted a drink when he was drunk and because his demand was refused he slapped the bar boy's face and tore the bill collector's coat. Defendant was fined \$5 and ordered to pay the collector \$1.75 compensation.

The members of the Victoria Recreation Club are not too well provided for in the matter of bathing facilities, the water at times being very shallow and very dirty. It is therefore very annoying to know that a Chinaman tried to make the water much worse by dumping a lot of night soil near the swimming bath, but it is satisfactory to know that he was promptly caught by a vigilant constable. The Magistrate said the offence was a most disgusting one and he fined the defendant \$15 with the alternative of six weeks in gaol.

We are all aware of the great nuisance that is sometimes caused by ricksha coolies bolting headlong across the road with their vehicles towards probable passengers. Four of such coolies were charged at the Police Court on 29th Sept. with rushing at foot passengers at Pedder's Wharf. His Worship said the defendants caused a good deal of annoyance by such conduct. They gave trouble to the public, the police, the magistrate, and themselves, and it was to be hoped that the nuisance would cease. Each of the defendants was fined \$5.

Sir John Carrington's silver wedding-day fell on Saturday 2nd October, and, we tender to His Honour our congratulations and best wishes, in which we know we shall be joined by the whole community. It must have been sad for Sir John that Lady Carrington was not with him on such an occasion, but the next best thing is that Her Ladyship was to leave England for Hongkong on the 2nd.

The *Singapore Free Press* says:—It seems pretty certain that it is the steamer *Avoca* which is to do the trooping out in this direction towards the end of the year. The 2nd batt. Rifle Brigade is to embark on board that trooper on the 23rd September, at the Royal Albert Dock, for conveyance to Malta. As the *Avoca* is not included in the schedule of Indian troopers issued this mail, it is almost certain to be that ship which picks up the Royal Lancaster Regiment at Malta, brings it on to Hongkong, returning with the West Yorkshires to Singapore and taking the 1st Rifle Brigade home to the Isle of Wight.

On the morning of the 28th September the remains of the late Lieutenant Dawson, R.A., were interred with military honours at the Happy Valley. There was a very large attendance of officers, nearly the whole garrison staff being present. The band of the West Yorkshire Regiment played the "Dead March in Saul" on the way to the cemetery, and after the service, which was most solemn, a firing party of forty men, under Lieutenant Buzzard, fired the usual rounds. The coffin, which was borne to the cemetery on a gun carriage, was covered with many handsome wreaths sent by the deceased officer's many sorrowing friends.

On the 5th October a special meeting of the Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy. Mr. H. E. Wodehouse presided, and the other justices present were Mr. E. Robinson and Mr. W. M. B. Arthur. Mr. C. D. Wilkinson appeared on behalf of Wm. Frank Cox, who applied for the transfer of his publican's licence for the premises situate at Nos. 12 and 13, Queen Victoria Street, under the sign of the "Traveller's Hotel," to Charles August Stuhlmann. The application was granted. Gustave Neubrunn was granted permission to remove his business as a licensed publican, now carried on under the sign of "The Land We Live In Hotel," at premises known as No. 318, Queen's Road Central, to Nos. 332 and 334, Queen's Road Central, formerly occupied by him. The adjunct licence held by Frederick Bishop for Thomas's Grill Room was transferred to James Goodchild.

A servant boy in the employ of Mr. A. Kuhn, Richmond Road, pleaded guilty at the Police Court on 1st Oct. to stealing a gold watch and chain and a \$5 gold piece, altogether of the value of \$150, the property of his master. On the 22nd September Mr. Kuhn missed his watch and chain on going to bed and later discovered that he had also been robbed of the gold piece, which had been taken from the drawer. From what the cook said on the following morning Mr. Kuhn had his boy arrested, but the charge was then denied. While on remand the prisoner attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself in his cell by means of his quene, but he was fortunately discovered in time by an assistant warder, who cut him down. The prisoner was penitent yesterday morning and acknowledged having stolen the watch and chain and the gold piece from a drawer in a table at the side of Mr. Kuhn's bed. For the theft the prisoner was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour and for attempting suicide he was ordered to come up for judgment if called upon.

Under the auspices of the Kowloon Docks Recreation Club an entertainment was held at the Docks on Saturday night, 2nd Oct., when Mr. R. Cooke presided over a large and appreciative audience. An excellent programme had been arranged, which opened with a fine rendering of a pianoforte solo, "The Caliph of Bagdad," by Mr. A. J. M. Farr, and was followed with songs, violin solos, &c., in delightful variety. Mr. R. J. H. Bentley responded to encores for both of his songs, as did also Mr. J. Bryan for "We did 'ave a time," Mr. Ward for his humorous recitation, "The Penny Showman," and Mr. A. C. Van Nierop for "The Holy City." The other items on the programme were all very creditably rendered and included songs, &c., by Mrs. Stringer, Dr. Jordan, Messrs. S. H. Somerton, H. Houben, Boulter, and Simmers. At the conclusion the Chairman proposed votes of thanks to the artists and the committee, remarking that they were greatly indebted to the former for coming there to entertain them, and to the latter for the amount of trouble they had gone to in compiling so excellent a programme.

and it will be conceded, says our contemporary, that the increases granted are not unreasonable. The men who will be benefited are the men who are feeling most acutely the high prices at present ruling for almost all the necessities of life. They are nearly all poor Eurasians or Asiatics, many of them with large families to support. The higher officers who draw exchange compensation have not, of course, been considered. Unlike the subordinate officers, they are all, fortunately, in a position to tide over a season of temporary dearth, and are not entitled to come to the Commission for assistance. We all hope that these hard times will be only temporary, and the Commissioners, in that view, limit the increases to a period of six months. This will involve an extra expenditure of over twelve thousand dollars, in itself a considerable item. The Commissioners also granted substantial increases in the matter of transport allowance on account of the prevailing high price of horse feed.

We hear that a circular has been issued to the members of the Civil Service notifying them that in consequence of the unfavourable financial position of the colony no applications for increase of salary can be entertained. In the Straits Settlements it is understood that the Government is going to take the increased cost of living into consideration in connection with the salaries provided for in next year's estimates, and the municipalities of Singapore and Penang have already taken steps in the same direction. From the *Straits Times* we learn that the Municipal Commission of Singapore on the 23rd September increased the salaries of their subordinate officials, in consequence of the present enhanced cost of living in the Settlement. Municipal servants drawing salaries of over one hundred and twenty dollars a year will receive an increase of fifteen per cent.; those drawing above six dollars a month, and not exceeding ten dollars, will get an additional dollar and a-half; and others receiving six dollars a month or less will be paid an extra dollar. The Sub-Committee have evidently gone into the matter with considerable care,

A houseboy in the employ of Mr. J. White, of the Naval Yard, was fined \$5 at the Police Court on 29th Sept. for leaving his master's employ without giving due notice.

On 29th Sept. Mr. George Kingston Hall Brutton was approved, admitted, and enrolled as an attorney and proctor in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The Attorney-General (Hon. W. M. Goodman) made the application and explained that Mr. Brutton was admitted to practise as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Judicature in England in 1891. During the last four years Mr. Brutton had practised in Shanghai. The Chief Justice, before whom the application was made, said he had great pleasure in admitting Mr. Brutton to practise in the Court. We understand that Mr. Brutton will join the office of Mr. K. W. Mounsey.

The Rev. A. Kollerker, in his 1896-1897 report of the mission schools connected with the Berlin Missionary Society in China, says it is very interesting to observe that the Chinese are more and more awakening to the acknowledgment of the fact that the western methods of teaching excel those of the Chinese. During the year the Society sustained twenty-one day-schools with about 350 pupils, or seven more schools than in 1896. The Central School in Canton is flourishing, all the rooms being filled. One passage in the report reads as follows— "A recent paper in the *Chinese Recorder* shews that we are not alone in the difficulty of impressing the Chinese with the idea that it is not a disgrace for a literary man to work and shorten his long finger-nails. We try to overcome this foolish prejudice by ordering the pupils themselves to sweep and clean their rooms and garden. This rule once nearly ruined the school some years ago, but works well now. Last year the pupils were most obedient; they studied diligently and made good progress."

Three men were charged before Mr. Wodehouse on 30th Sept. with highway robbery with violence at Kowloon. The complainant's story was that he left Kowloon City on the 23rd August for Yau-mati with \$40 in his possession. Just as he had crossed the border one of the prisoners asked him if he had any opium about him. He replied he had not, and he was thereupon searched and his money taken from him by the man who questioned him. The other two men were near him. They refused to give back the money, and complainant was then stabbed three times in the side. He became unconscious and when he recovered his senses he found himself at Kowloon City, minus of course his money. On the following morning Sergeant Conitts picked up a knife near to the scene of the assault and after enquiries had been made the complainant was found at Kowloon City and he identified the knife as the one with which he was stabbed. The prisoners were arrested two or three days ago and they were identified by the complainant. The case was remanded.

On Saturday afternoon, 2nd October, in response to an invitation issued by Messrs. Madar and Farmer, several ladies and gentlemen participated in a trial trip of the new double-ended ferry launch, *Guiding Star*, which was launched on the 30th August from the Kowloon docks. The launch journeyed to Junk Bay and back, the trip occupying altogether about two hours. Mr. D. Macdonald was in charge of the engineering arrangements, which were in every way highly satisfactory, the engines working with perfect smoothness, a speed of eleven knots being maintained. The launch is certain to attain great popularity and we should not be surprised if it is in great demand during the picnic season. The vibration from the engines is infinitesimal. Another great advantage is that there is plenty of room on the upper deck for a large number of passengers. The stern-like ends are a novelty in this harbour and when looking ahead one is reminded of the boy whose trousers got reversed, causing him to wonder whether he was going home or going to school; but familiarity will soon wear off the puzzled feeling, should it exist. There are two deck houses and the seats on the deck are of the garden type and reversible. The trip was a most pleasant one and rendered all the more enjoyable by the great hospitality Messrs. Madar and Farmer extended to their numerous guests. The *Guiding Star* was placed on the regular ferry service on the 3rd October.

The charge of embezzlement preferred against a Chinese clerk employed by the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, again came before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse on 30th Sept. Mr. Walker, the manager, showed by a multiplicity of arithmetical explanations that from the 27th August to 21st September 2,702½ lbs of milk had been lost to the company, the whole being worth \$104.2. In reply to this the defendant sought to show that in the course of a day's churning several pounds of milk were lost in leakage and waste and also by separated milk being added to cream in order to better facilitate the making of butter or cheese. He also said that there was no check put upon the coolies who took back the unused milk to Pokfulam, there being no lock or seal placed upon the tins, and therefore the milk could be sold on the way. In reply to this Mr. Walker said there was a certain amount of leakage and a little waste, but not enough to account for the great deficiency. Whenever milk was put with cream during churning the milk left from the churning would still have to be accounted for, as there would be more butter and also more buttermilk. In regard to the defence that it was possible for coolies to sell milk sent back to Pokfulam, Mr. Walker called a coolie who was in charge of the van and he said the milk was never touched from the time it left the Company's office until it reached Pokfulam. The case was then adjourned to give the defendant an opportunity of calling witnesses. Bail as before was allowed. On 2nd October the magistrate committed the accused for trial. Mr. Ewens, who appeared for the defence, requesting that this course be adopted.

It is believed that the man who sent the threatening letter to the Captain Superintendent of Police on the 13th August has at last been caught. He made his appearance before the Magistrate on 29th Sept. The letter demanded \$10,000 from Mr. May and appointed a certain rendezvous for the money to be handed over in a lump sum. Needless to say Mr. May did not hand over the \$10,000, nor did he "fear and tremble," which was the alternative mentioned in the letter. The arrest came about in this way. Detective Sergeant Scott, acting on certain information received on 28th September went to a house at 18, Chinese Street, where he found the prisoner, who is a contractor of Hungham. The officer asked if any objection would be raised to his searching the premises, and the accused asked what was the object. Scott replied that he believed the prisoner had some forged notes in his possession, and thereupon a drawer was opened and Scott found a forged bank note purporting to be one for \$50 of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China. The prisoner was thereupon arrested. He attempted to throw away a waistcoat, but the sergeant prevented him and on searching it found a chop which exactly corresponded with the chop on the threatening letter sent to Mr. May. The man was then taken to the Police Station and charged with having sent the letter and also with being in possession of the forged note well knowing it to be forged. He told the Magistrate that the note must have been put in the drawer by his partner. They had contracted to build an iron wharf off Messrs. Douglas Lapraik's office. They quarrelled over the business and the partner wished to get the prisoner into trouble. Both cases were adjourned till.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The manager of the Kabin gold mines came down to Bangkok the other day with, it is reported, three kilos, or over six and a half pounds, of pure gold from there. A ten stamp battery is now in operation at the mines.

The *China Gazette* has been informed that the steamer *Ellen Rickmers* and the steamer *Elizabeth Rickmers* have been withdrawn from the China line, owing to both steamers having been chartered by the North German Lloyd Company to be employed on the Baltimore and Galveston route in place of the boats of the Crefield class hitherto running to those ports. commanded to resign his post and go up to Peking to await some other appointment. It is reported that this is with the object of appointing him to Canton in place of Viceroy T'an Chung-lin, the latter being nearly 85 years of age and anxious to retire.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—One of the consequences of the recent rains has been a large land-slip in Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co.'s Cosmopolitan Dock, a portion of the upper side, extending for about one-fourth of the length of the dock, having fallen in. Fortunately the accident is not of a very serious nature, and, beyond delaying the work of lengthening the dock is of no great consequence.

Messrs. Bennert & Co. recently called a meeting of their creditors to discuss their position. The firm explained the state of affairs and asked their creditors to contribute Tls. 200 each to enable them to go on with their claim against the Nanking Coast Defence and Pay Department so that in the event of the claim being decided in their favour Bennert & Co. would be able to pay what they owed. The creditors, however, did not agree to the suggestion.—*Union*.

Dr. Taylor Grant, the late Medical Officer of Health at Shanghai, was before his departure from the Settlement entertained at a farewell dinner at the Astor House by a number of his friends, who presented him with a silver tea service and an address engrossed on vellum and handsomely bound in morocco. The Rev. Dr. Stevens presided and several complimentary speeches were made, to which Dr. Grant replied. Dr. Grant was also the recipient of an address from the medical practitioners of Shanghai.

The *N. C. Daily News* gives the following account of a shooting accident:—A foreigner, according to a native report, out shooting in North Sinza, found himself suddenly attacked by a native dog at the village of Wangkaza. He tried to scare the dog off by firing his gun at it, but missed the dog and lodged the charge in the legs of a country woman a hundred yards away. The clamour which arose amongst the villagers soon apprised the foreigner of his bad marksmanship and thinking that discretion was the better part of valour he made a bee-line for the settlement. But just as he was on the point of crossing the boundary creek some carpenters at work on a house near by turned out in force and stopped him, and he was taken back to Wangkaza, where the wounds of the country-woman were shown him and he was asked "what he intended to do about it." The matter was compromised eventually in the usual way by the promise of a *douceur* and a letter to the Shanghai Road Hospital asking that the country-woman might be attended to.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON 5th October.—Congo.—Settlements here and at Macao during the past fortnight consist of 2,600 Boxes at Tls. 9½ to 17 for Macao Congo and Tls. 11 to 16 for Moyunes. Quality still remains very indifferent. Scented Capers.—Purchases of these Teas during the past two weeks amount to 12,000 boxes at Tls. 11½ to 22 per picul. A few nice lignoring Teas from the fourth crop have been taken at from Tls. 18 to 22 per picul and for these much firmer prices have been asked and obtained. Generally speaking the market is stronger all round and may be quoted fully one tael up. The fourth crop Teas appear to be good in cup but are very broken and dusty. Very small quantities of leaf are arriving from the country and these are firmly held. The crop is reported as a very small one. Total settlements to date are 166,000 boxes against 193,000 boxes at same time last season. Stocks in native hands are reduced to about 15,000 boxes, almost all composed of old leaf. A small business has been passing in longleaf Pekees but the Teas being all contracted for, the quantities and prices have not transpired.

SHANGHAI, 1st October.—From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were dated 17th ultimo. Black Teas.—Business reported is about the same in quantity as for the previous interval. Buyers are few and prices remain unchanged.

Settlements reported are:—
Ningchow... 2,066 ½-chts. at Tls. 19 to 22½ a picul.
Keemun ... 346 " " 18.00 to " "
Hohow ... 340 " " 16.00 to 17.00 " "
Oonam ... 1,386 " " 11.00 to 15.75 " "

4,138 ½-chts.
Stock, 9,894 ½-chts.

Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—Considering the size of the stock on offer the volume of business done has been insignificant. Native holders of pure Teas are very firm, and in some cases ask for an advance on previous rates; a possible decline of 1 to 2 taels on somewhat inferior Teas is not sufficient to tempt buyers, who are waiting for further news of early shipments. Many of the chops of Pingsuey now on the market are fine Teas compared with the coarse lignoring smoky Fychows and mawkish Local packs, which are in strong demand at extravagant prices. The present action of the United States Government in "shutting out" Pingsueys of merchantable quality is unreasonable, and cannot last without permanent injury to the Trade. Country Teas.—The confidence of buyer in future prospects continues unabated, although the sales of new crop Teas reported from America could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and to say the best leave no margin for profit on present settlements. Buying has perhaps not been so eager as it was at the date of our last report, but the market is still active. Prices are very irregular, fine and finest show in many instances a decline in tael cost of one to two taels a picul, but common qualities are fully up to previous prices, and some of the settlements mark a further advance. Tienkai have met with more attention than Moyunes as was to be expected from their superior quality. We are pleased to note an improvement in the make of several chops from both districts, some of which are of attractive appearance. The sailing vessel *Helen Brewer* clearing for New York to-morrow, will carry the largest cargo of Tea that has gone forward to that Port in one bottom for a long time. Hysons.—The market for choice and choice-st Teas continues very strong and prices up to Taels 51 are still being paid. Medium to finest, however, are in small demand, and stocks of these qualities are heavy. We estimate that some 10,000 half-chests are in the hands of native Traders.

Settlements reported are:—
Pingsuey ... 2,597 ½-chts. at Tls. 28½ to 35 a picul.
Moyune ... 4,616 " " 23½ to 51 " "
Tienkai ... 3,328 " " 27 to 49 " "
Fychow ... 3,211 " " 20 to 26 " "
Local packed 1,315 " " 12½ to 28 " "

Total ... 20,067 ½-chts.
Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

	Settlements.		Stock.	
	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey	57,818	69,941	25,969	20,545
Moyune	46,747	46,313		
Tienkai	49,084	32,387	16,161	20,252
Fychow	16,020	11,898		
Local packed	14,568	7,026	215	968
Total	184,237	167,565	42,375	41,766

Total arrivals to date are:—
Pingsuey ... 83,787 against 90,486 } to same date last year.
Country Tea & Local packed 142,828 " 118,844 }
226,615 209,330

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	3,855,438	4,176,007
Shanghai and Hankow	10,586,035	15,224,799
Foochow	10,165,795	10,984,195
Amoy	435,964	415,267
Total	25,043,232	30,800,268

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	11,218,300	8,300,303
Amoy	8,904,559	8,892,588
Foochow	5,493,906	5,110,353
Total	25,616,765	22,303,244

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	21,266,562	18,984,913
Kobe	9,632,782	6,707,857
Total	30,949,344	25,692,780

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	19,375,665	22,025,118

SILK.

CANTON, 22nd September.—Re-reels.—The only business to report is a sale of 50 bales No. 1 at 45. There has been some enquiry but it has not, so far, resulted in anything owing to the advance of exchange. Tsatlies.—Are unchanged with nothing doing. Filatures.—During the first part of the fortnight there was more activity and the demand from Lyons improved. Prices are very firm, but business for the present has been checked by the advance of exchange. From prices paid we quote: \$760 for Kwong Shun Hing 13/15, \$730 for Wing Wo Lun 11/13, \$735 for Cheong Kee 9/11, \$725 for Kwong Wo Hing 13/15, \$675 for Hop King Lun 10/12. Short-reels.—Have been in fairly good enquiry for America. From prices paid we quote: \$735 for Yu Wo Cheong 14/16, \$715 for Chun Sun Hing 14/16, \$685 for Ying Kee and Cheong Kee 14/16 and Yan Hing Cheong. Waste.—A moderate business in all sorts is being done at former rates. Stocks:—700 bales Tsatlies and 400 bales Filatures.

SHANGHAI, 1st October.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London wires report a firm market with Gold Kilins at 9/3. Raw Silk.—To-day transactions are reported to extent of 300 bales consisting of Gold Kilin at Tls. 465, and Silver Double Elephant at same price. Taysams.—About 50 bales have changed hands. Yellow Silks.—Business has been done to extent of 150 bales at prices quoted below. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 23rd to 29th September: 993 bales White Silk, 893 piculs Yellow and 475 piculs Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Settlements reported amount to 50 bales Re-reels and 310 bales Steam and Hand Filatures. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—London 16 bales, Continent 1,738 bales, America 1,955 bales and Japan 4 bales. Waste Silk.—There has been a good demand, mostly for the Continent, and the following lots have changed hands:—

	at Tls.
700 Long Shantung Waste (whole bales)	22½
250 Hankow Fisonnets	21½ to 22
600 Boiled Waste 80 per cent., 20 per cent.	13 to 13½
50 Szechuen Yellow Gum 1, 2, 3	33½
400 Hankow and Compo Crapands (whole bales)	25 to 27
500 Szechuen and Kading Fisonnets	21½ to 22½
100 Honan Waste No. 2	22½
100 Tussah Waste 60 per cent., 40 per cent.	24½ to 20½

Pongees.—500 pieces Shantung Pongees have been settled as follows:—19 inch. by 18½ yards by 22/23 oz. at Tls. 2.85.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/6½; Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stlg.
	per picul.	per lb.
Tsatlies.—Gold Kilin	465	10/11
Silver Double Elephant	465	10/11
Taysam.—9 by 12 Moss Double Butterfly 1	420	9/2
Green Stork 3	400	8/9
Yellow Silk.—Meeyang	342½ a 355 7/8 a 7/9	
Mienchew	347½	7/8
Fooyung	342½ a 355 7/8 a 7/9	
Szechong	245	5/6
Steam Filature—		
First Choice 13 15	780 a 800 16 8½ a 17 1½	
Steam Filatures—		
Second Choice 13 15	760 a 785 16 3½ a 16 9½	
Hand Filatures—		
Veekee Old Man Chop Croisse, Ex.		
Nos. 1 & 2	Ave. 635	13/84
Woonan Dong Croisse, Nos. 2 & 3	630	13/7
Flying Horse Haining Ex., Nos. 1 & 2	600	12/11
Re-reel.—Worm & Leaf 2 & 3	405 a 485	10/9 a 10/6
Wild Silk.—		
Tussah Raw, No. 3	100 a 107½	4/4 a 4/6

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	26,311	14,306
Canton	10,468	10,924
Yokohama	6,194	2,165
Total	42,973	27,395

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	3,385	383
Canton	5,180	686
Yokohama	8,340	810
Total	17,114	1,879

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 6th October.—There is no change to report in the position of this market. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$48.75 to \$49.00. Sales, 280 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—The market is active and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—
 Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.30 to 7.32 per pol.
 do. " 2, White... 6.87 to 6.90 "
 Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.64 to 4.66 "
 do. " 2, Brown... 4.51 to 4.54 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.25 to 7.28 "
 do. " 2, White... 6.75 to 6.78 "
 Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.53 to 4.56 "
 do. " 2, Brown... 4.47 to 4.50 "
 Soochow Sugar Candy... 11.12 to 11.15 "
 Shekloong " " " 9.72 to 9.75 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, sailed on the 23rd September. For Manchester:—350 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—50 casks and 53 cases preserves. For London or Manchester:—175 bales waste silk. For London:—13 cases cigars from Manila, 150 bales waste silk, 440 bales canes, 66 bales rami, 12 bales mica, 35 bales feathers, 118 rolls mats, 4 cases silk piece goods, 30 cases blackwood ware, 20 cases bristles, 52 cases china ware, 11 cases pearl shells, 122 cases essential oil, 5 cases curios, 7 cases sundries, 3,406 cases and 660 casks preserves, 300 packages lady crackers, 8 packages rattan chair, 47 packages ordi stores, 9,044 boxes tea (189,924 lbs.).

The German steamer *Erato*, sailed on the 27th September. For Odessa:—39 bales canes, 67 bales galangal and 50 boxes staraniseed. For Havre:—19 boxes feathers, 29 boxes paper, 394 rolls matting, 30 cases bristles, 118 cases chinaware, 2 cases silk, 12 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases poho oil, 3 boxes human hair, 50 boxes camphor, 38 packages tea and 8 packages sundries. For Havre Option Hamburg:—15 bales rattans and 300 cases palmleaffans. For Havre/Hamburg/London:—45 cases essential oil, 60 cases bristles, 350 cases camphor, 50 casks ginger, 100 bales feathers and cassia oil. For Hamburg:—548 drums camphor oil, 3 cases ilang ilang, 65 rolls matting, 25 packages lanterns, 559 bales canes, 50 boxes staraniseed, 3 cases blackwoodware, 215 cases preserves, 210 casks preserves, 44 boxes essential oil, 50 bales rattan shavings, 20 cases cassia oil, 940 cases cassia, 33 bales rattancore, 16 cases chinaware, 44 packages crackers, 31 cases bristles, 61 casks ginger, 37 cases ginger, 2 bales galangal, 1,130 packages tea, 23 packages sundries, 4 cases teasticks and 90 bales rattanware. For Hamburg/London/Antwerp:—40 cases bristles. For Hamburg Option London:—5 boxes bristles. For Hamburg Option Antwerp:—20 cases bristles. For Antwerp:—125 p'cks tea. For Lisbon:—3 cases china & lacqd. ware. For New York:—10 boxes cassia oil.

Per British steamship *Opack*, sailed on the 28th September. For London:—1,717 boxes tea (36,057 lbs.), 4,725 cases ginger, 2 cases covers, 275 casks ginger, 119 packages canes, 50 cases palm leaf fans, 10 bales rattan shavings, 5,181 packages. For Glasgow:—1 package tobacco samples.

Per M. M. steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 29th September. For France:—489 bales silk, 5 cases silk piece goods, 3 packages effects, 62 packages tea, 16 packages hair, 100 cases gall-nuts, 10 casks wood oil, 28 rolls matting, 5 packages bamboo. For Milan:—20 bales raw silk. For London:—9 cases plants.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 5th October.—Bengal.—The market, after dropping to \$720, kept steady until towards the close when it advanced to \$725, which is the current rate for both New Patna and New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been a rather small business passing in this drug during the interval and rates have receded slightly, the following being the latest figures:—

New (this yr's) \$870 with allowance to 2 catties.
 (last ") \$900 " from 2 cts. to 2 1/2 "
 Old (2/5 ") \$920 " 0 " to 0 "
 " (6/9 ") \$950 " 1 " to 2 1/2 "

Persian.—Business has continued dull. Closing quotations are \$500 to \$680 for Oily, and \$550 to \$720 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna. 1,180 chests.
 New Benares. 710 "
 Malwa. 310 "
 Persian. 580 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 29	722 1/2	—	722 1/2	—	870/900	920/950
Sept. 30	720	—	720	—	870/900	920/950
Oct. 1	718 1/2	—	720	—	870/900	920/950
Oct. 2	718 1/2	—	720	—	870/900	920/950
Oct. 3	717 1/2	—	720	—	870/900	920/950
Oct. 4	717 1/2	—	720	—	870/900	920/950
Oct. 5	725	—	725	—	870/900	920/950

COTTON.

COTTON, 22nd September.—Sales have been effected at declining rates. Stock, about 3,625 bales.

Bombay \$17.50 to 18.00 p. pl.
 Kurrachee 16.00 to 17.00 "
 Bengal, Rangoon, and }
 Dacca } 17.00 to 19.50 "
 Shanghai and Japanese. 21.00 to 23.00 "
 Tunchow and Ningpo. 21.00 to 22.50 "
 Madras (Best) 17.00 to 18.00 "
 Sales: 500 pieces Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—The market is weaker, prices of all descriptions being a little easier. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary \$2.59 to 2.62
 " Round, good quality 2.74 to 2.76
 " Long 2.87 to 2.90
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.65 to 2.67
 " Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.92 to 2.95
 " White 4.00 to 4.05
 " Fine Cargo 4.20 to 4.25

COALS.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—Market strong; sale of 10,000 tons Japanese at \$8.75 and \$10.50 per ton to arrive. Quotations are:—

Cardiff \$16.50 to 17.00 ex ship.
 Australian... { \$9.00 small.
 " 11.00 lump.
 Milke Lump... 10.00 to 11.00 ex ship, nominal
 Milke Small... 9.00 to 10.00 none offering
 Moji Lump ... 8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, steady

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 8 at \$88, 725 bales No. 10 at \$91 to \$102.50, 335 bales No. 12 at \$95 to \$98, 30 bales No. 16 at \$104, 750 bales No. 20 at \$107 to \$111.50. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces X. 9 at \$4.75. *Spanish Stripes*.—24 pieces Indigo, German S. & G. at \$1.65, 120 pieces Red Dragon at \$0.62, 48 pieces B.B.B. at \$0.64 1/2.

METALS.—Tin.—400 slabs Foongchai at \$39.40 to \$40.50, 100 slabs Siam at \$40. *Quicksilver*.—300 flasks at \$125.50.

SHANGHAI, 30th September.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—The past week has been exceptionally dull in this market as, in addition to the continued lack of demand, clearances have dwindled down very considerably. This is probably accounted for by the stringency in the Native money market and the consequent high rate of interest ruling daily. At the same time orders from the Outports are coming in very slowly, the general expectation being, on receipt of advice of the recent reaction in Exchange, that rates were going up to the neighbourhood of three shillings, the news of the subsequent decline, apparently, taking much longer to travel, if it was even advised at all. A small business has commenced, but it cannot be called a consumptive demand, but rather a speculative movement on the part of one or two of the local dealers, in anticipation of the enquiry which they seem certain cannot be far off now. It is confined almost entirely to Manchester makes and can hardly be taken as any criterion of the market, nor yet the general feeling of Importers, as prices are considerably below the cost of replacing. Still, a beginning has to be made, and both buyers and sellers may possibly

take their cue from these small sales, and which may culminate in more important transactions. It is difficult to get any authentic news of the state of the markets at our dependencies, those in the North especially, but judging by the shipments thence they cannot be very bad, though it must not be overlooked that they are still drawing on comparatively cheaply bought supplies, and it is therefore doubtful whether prices have got anywhere near the level of those ruling here. For Hankow there is some excuse on account of the height of the water in the river threatening floods, and this same cause is interfering with the navigation beyond that Port to Szechuen, in addition to the obstruction caused by the authorities in pressing all the available trackers into their service for the purpose of transporting rice to the famine stricken districts. It is quite time an attempt was made to take small steamers up to Chungking, but it is needless waiting until the Chinese lead the way, as there are too many conflicting interests for them to do it.

METALS, 1st October.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bieffeld & Co's. Report).—On every hand there is still the same cry, that has become so monotonous, of no business being done. Not only is this the case in the metal trades, but it is fully as true in all the import lines. In addition to the unsteady exchange, which has completely unsettled the markets, we have here to contend against the rise in prices at home, and the great rise in freight, which latter is now a great factor. Whereas a year ago metal freights could be booked at from 15s. to 20s., these same rates are now quoted at 32s. 6d., and even at this price it is not offering freely. Many orders sent home during the past few months have been below the market rates 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. by the time they have reached home, and this has put an additional damper on all transactions. Reports from the outports are no more encouraging. From Newchwang good crops are reported, but there seems no inclination to invest surplus money in foreign products. Tientsin and Chefoo districts seem unable to meet the rise in prices as nothing is being done there, despite the near approach of the annual closing. From Hankow and River Ports there is the same cry, and it would almost seem as though the consumers preferred to do without rather than meet the advances. The following are the only transactions we have heard of:—100 case Yellow Metal Sheathing at Tls. 24.60 to Tls. 25; 750 boxes Bamboo Steel, Double Horse \$12. 7s. 0d. c.i.f.

EXCHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, 6th October.

ON LONDON.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 1/10 1/2
 Bank Bills, on demand 1/10 1/2
 Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/10 1/2
 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2
 Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/10 1/2
 ON PARIS.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 2.34
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.38
 ON GERMANY.—
 On demand 1.89
 ON NEW YORK.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 45 1/2
 Credits, 60 days' sight 46 1/2
 ON BOMBAY.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 142
 Bank, on demand 142 1/2
 ON CALCUTTA.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 142
 Bank, on demand 142 1/2
 ON SHANGHAI.—
 Bank, at sight 74
 Private, 30 days' sight 74 1/2
 ON YOKOHAMA.—
 On demand 9 % pm.
 ON MANILA.—
 On demand 6 % pm.
 ON SINGAPORE.—
 On demand 1 1/2 % pm.
 SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 10.60
 GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 56.00

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—The week under review has shown but little activity and rates but little change. The chief part of the small business transacted has been in Mining stock.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at 177 and 176½ per cent. prem., with a small business on time at equivalent rates; the market closes quiet and neglected. Nationals have found buyers at \$19½ and \$20, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Bank of China continues out of the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders, after further sales at \$79 cum dividend, eased up on receipt of the news of the loss of the *Namoa*, in which it is understood this Company *inter alia* was interested; the market closes with sellers at \$73 ex dividend. Unions remain unchanged; reported business at \$245. Cantons continue on offer without sales. The report just published recommends a final dividend of \$6 per share and a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors, the sum of \$4,276.22 being carried forward to new account. In Straits, North Chinas, and Yangtszes there is nothing to report except sales of the first at \$18.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have improved to \$365 with buyers, after sales at \$360 and \$362½, closing firm with an upward tendency. Chinas have ruled steady at \$106 with small sales at that and \$106½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have continued out of favour with shares offering all the week at \$32 and only very few small sales. Indo-Chinas have been in fair demand at \$50 and a fair business has been transacted in them at that rate, market closing with further buyers. Douglases, which ruled weak at the commencement of the week at \$60 ex dividend, fell further to \$59 upon receipt of the news of the loss of the s.s. *Namoa* in the Haitan Straits on her passage from Amoy to Foochow; the steamer was covered by insurance, but the Company will feel the loss of an economical and useful boat, to replace which by a new steamer will cost them from 2 to 2½ times the book value of the *Namoa*. China Manilas and China Mutuals remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled very steady with small sales at \$147. Luzons continue entirely out of favour with sellers and no sales at \$39.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled more or less neglected with few sales at \$5½ to \$5½, closing with sellers at latter rate. Charbonnages have been negotiated at \$86 and \$87. Olivers with a favourable report from the Mines have been in fair demand and after sales of B's at \$7½, \$7½, \$8, \$8½, and \$8½, close steady at \$8½. New Balmorals have also improved to \$1.60 with sales (Preferences). Jebebus have been in some demand; sales have been made at \$2.40. Raubs have again gone back to \$21 with sales, after fair transactions at \$23, \$22½, \$22, and \$21½, the market closing firm with buyers at \$21. Great Easterns in sympathy with Olivers further improved to \$3 after sales at \$2.50, \$2.70, \$2.90, and reported ones at \$3.25, market closing with sellers at \$2.90.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been negotiated in small cash lots at 226 per cent. prem., for Decr. at 235, and January at 238 and 239, the market closing quiet at 226. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected with little or no business at quotations, and Wanchais close unchanged without sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been constantly on offer during the week at \$76, resulting in small sales at \$75; more shares, however, could be placed at that rate. Kowloon Lands remain neglected at quotation with only very small sales. Hotels have changed hands at \$48, closing steady. West Points have been negotiated at \$21 and close with buyers at that rate and sellers at \$21½. Humphreys Estates are pretty generally enquired for at \$9.50 to \$9.60, but no sales have taken place, holders not caring to part except at an advance.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have further improved with sales at \$16 for new and \$31 for old shares, market closing with sellers at those rates. Watsons have been negotiated in small lots at \$12½ and Fenwicks at \$28.25, whilst Electrics, Tramways, Ices, and Ropes have all been on offer without leading to business. Cottons have continued quiet with but little doing at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$346.25, sal. & s..]
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	177 ½ prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5. 5s, sales & buys.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$19½ sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$19½, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$9
China Sugar	\$100	\$147, sal. & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 112, sellers
Hongkong	\$20	\$18, sales
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 120
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 116, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 575, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 70	Tls. 72
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$4.75, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$28 25, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$10	[& sellers
		\$31, ex. N.I., sales
		\$16, sales & sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$10½, sal. & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$112, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$48, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$226 p. ct. prem.=
		[\$407½, sales
Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$170, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$106, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$73, ex div. sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$365, buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 200
Straits	\$20	\$18, buyers
Union	\$25	\$217½
Yangtze	\$60	\$158
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$75, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.75
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$9, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$21, sales & buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$89, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 500	\$36, buyers
Great E. & C'onian	\$3	\$5½, sales & sellers
Do. "Do."	\$2½	\$2.90, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.40, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.50, sales
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.60, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3½, sales & buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$5½, sales & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.60, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$21, sales & buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18½, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$75, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s. buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$59, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$31.75, sales & set.
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$50, sales & buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$45, sellers
Watson & Co., S. A. ...	\$10	\$12½, sal. & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 1st October.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—With the exception of Tobacco and New Dock shares, business was not brisk. This was caused to some extent by the tightness of money, some Banks calling up loans, and interest has been raised in one quarter to 7 per cent. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only transactions reported here was a small sale at 185 per cent premium. Marine Insurance.—Business has been confined to Yangtze shares at \$160, and Straits at \$19. Fire Insurance.—A small lot of Hongkong were placed at \$356. Shipping.—Indo China S. N. shares were placed at Tls. 39½ for delivery on the 31st March. Sugars.—China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$148 and \$149 cash and \$162½ for the 31st March. There are sellers. Luzon shares are offering at \$41. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 170 cash and Tls. 172 for the 31st December. A large business has been done in Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares at very irregular rates, Ordinary shares at Tls. 80 cash, Tls. 80, Tls. 75, and Tls. 90 for December, and Tls. 85 to Tls. 90 for March. The closing price for cash is Tls. 80, at which there are buyers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares are offering at Tls. 123, and Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares at \$63. Industrial.—But a meagre business has been done in Cotton Mill

shares, confined to forced sales for the settlement. Ewos were forced off at Tls. 112 and Tls. 108, and Internationals at Tls. 120 and Tls. 117½. Laoukung-mow shares were sold this morning at Tls. 115 for December. Shanghai Rice Mill shares were placed at Tls. 30 cash and Tls. 31 for the 31st December, China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 57, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 85. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 202½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 94/93 cash, Tls. 95 for the 31st current, Tls. 102 for the 31st January, and Tls. 105 for the 31st March. A large business was done in Shanghai-Langkai shares at Tls. 430 to Tls. 505 cash, Tls. 510 and Tls. 525 for October, Tls. 560 for November, Tls. 480 to Tls. 560 for December, Tls. 600 and Tls. 610 for March and Tls. 570 and Tls. 600 for May. There are sellers for December delivery at Tls. 560. Hall and Holtz shares changed hands at \$4½. Loans.—Shanghai Gas 5 per cent Debentures were sold at Tls. 100,

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 6th October.—Freights generally remain about as before advised.

From Saigon to Hongkong, a ready steamer is wanted at 12 cents per picul; to Java 19 cents has been accepted.

From Java to Hongkong, a medium-sized steamer has been placed at 18 cents per picul, which is the nominal quotation.

From Philippines to Japan small steamers are wanted at 30 cents per picul; to Hongkong 16 cents per picul.

Newchwang to Canton, the rate has advanced to 26 cents per picul for late October and early November loading and further tonnage could be placed.

Coal freights, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton; to Singapore, \$2.25. Mororan to Hongkong, \$2.50 per ton.

Sailing freights are weak, and no fixtures are reported; 12s. per ton of 40 cubic feet is offered.

There are four vessels disengaged in port, registering 4,627 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Chunshan—British steamer, 1,282 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 24 cents per picul.

Apenrade—German steamer, 696 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 27 cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$2.50 per ton.

Marie Jacobsen—German steamer, 1,850 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Triton—German steamer, 1,341 tons, Saigon to one port Java, 19 cents per picul; thence to Hongkong 18 cents per picul.

Fooksang—British steamer, 991 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Yiksang—British steamer, 887 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Torlenskjold—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul.

Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

Canton—British steamer, 1,110 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Tancred—Norwegian steamer, 764 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents per picul.

Loksang—British steamer, 979 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Taiyick—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Wuotan—German steamer, 1,201 tons, monthly, 8 months, \$4,600 per month.

Decima—German steamer, 1,145 tons, monthly, 1/1 month, \$4,300 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Dardanus* (str.), *Oanfu* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).

For TACOMA.—*Columbia* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Gov. Robt. Liv* (str.), *Dromeltan*, *Abner Coburn* (str.), *Energia* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Guthrie* (str.).

For PORTLAND.—*Mogul* (str.).

For BALTIMORE.—*Isaac Reed*, *Iolani*

For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.), *Maria Rickmers* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Courier* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.), *Yarra* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—

ARRIVALS.

- 28, Atlantic, German bark, from Rajan.
- 29, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 29, Else, German str., from Haiphong.
- 29, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 29, Phoenix, British g.-bt., from Macao.
- 30, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 30, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 30, Kintuck, British str., from Liverpool.
- 30, Tancred, Norw. str., from Moji.
- 30, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 30, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.

October—

- 1, Tientsin, British str., from Canton.
- 1, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 1, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 1, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 1, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 1, Pakshan, British str., from Straits.
- 1, Hansa, German str., from Otaru.
- 1, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 1, Shantung, British str., from Java.
- 2, Fausang, British str., from Hongay.
- 2, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 2, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Tritos, German str., from Java.
- 2, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
- 2, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 2, Saint Mark, Amr. ship, from New York.
- 3, Donar, German str., from Mororan.
- 3, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Unique, Norw. str., from Moji.
- 3, Wuotan, German str., from Saigon.
- 3, Chefoo, British str., from Canton.
- 3, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 4, Sunda, British str., from Antwerp.
- 4, Kweiyang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Independent, German str., from Iloilo.
- 4, Kansu, British str., from Shanghai.
- 4, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Mirzapore, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Oceana, German str., from Hamburg.
- 5, Hertha, German str., from Moji.
- 5, Krim, Norw. str., from Hongay.
- 5, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 5, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Breconshire, British str., from New York.
- 5, Cheangchew, British str., from S'pore.
- 5, Patrolus, British str., from Amoy.
- 6, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 6, Merionethshire, British str., from London.
- 6, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.

September—

DEPARTURES.

- 29, Chowfa, British str., for Yokohama.
- 29, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 29, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 29, Frammes, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.
- 29, Chefoo, British str., for Canton.
- 29, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 29, Laos, French str., for Europe.
- 29, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Ingraban, German str., for Mauritius.
- 29, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 29, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
- 30, Cosmopolit, German str., for Touron.
- 30, Menelaus, British str., for Amoy.
- 30, China, German str., for Saigon.
- 30, Ettrickdale, British str., for Yokohama.
- 30, Gerda, German str., for Yokohama.
- 30, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
- 30, Hingsang, British str., for Java.
- 30, Loyal, German str., for Chefoo.
- 30, Peru, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
- 30, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
- 30, Germania, German str., for Yokohama.

October—

- 1, Compania de Philipinas, Spanish str., for Manila.
- 1, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 1, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Knituck, British str., for Amoy.
- 2, Congo, Spanish sch., for Manila.
- 2, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 2, Japan, British str., for London.
- 2, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
- 2, Terrier, Norw. str., for Kobe.
- 2, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
- 3, Changsha, British str., for Kobe.

- 3, Else, German str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 3, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 3, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Chefoo, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
- 4, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Candia, British str., for Sydney, &c.
- 4, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Phoenix, British g.-bt., for Tamsui.
- 5, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
- 5, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Deucalion, British str., for Kudat.
- 5, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 5, Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 5, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 5, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Energia, British str., from Amoy.
- 6, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Chwanshan, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Breconshire, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Krim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 6, Martha, German str., for Kobe.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Gerda*, from Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. P. Helm, Messrs. Hoffman and Bode, and 250 Chinese.

Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong from Marseilles—Revs. Karrer and Leischman, Mr. J. D. Bedford. From Singapore—Messrs. H. W. Andrews, H. W. Churchill, Dr. Jose Gomes de Silva, Messrs. Moy Ja Chang, Kang Swee and Guan Joo. From Saigon—Mr. Victor Quinton. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Bure, Bishop F. R. Graves, Mr. Rayden. From Singapore—Messrs. Wisman, Y. Yokoyama, A. A. Rader, Mrs. Ahsaohgan and infant, Messrs. H. G. Hart and R. Prokopee. For Kobe from Marseilles—Mr. Charles Alevisque. From Singapore—Messrs. Makagawa and G. Shibuya. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Marquis de Saianzi, Messrs. Alinzio Azeveda, Folliot, Z. Abotta, Yakahawa, Sacks, Scandel, Leamine, Lissillam, Ropas, Niorthie, Bonnec, Toullez, Rogel, Causem, Ganiel, Domoloris, Mr. and Mrs. Bagnall and infant. From Singapore—Messrs. A. Van den Brock and Arnold. From Saigon—Mr. Stem.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. Hugh Taylor, Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Taylor and 3 children, Miss Isabel Griffin, Miss Jane Hall, Mrs. M. C. Brooks, Messrs. James McWilliams, J. R. Barrington, A. W. Schumacher, Wilson Ferguson, Henry Riggs, F. C. Riggs, H. E. Pollock, James Arthur, D. M. Moses, Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Parker, Major Hanham.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c.—Messrs. A. Gasper, M. Gasper, Chater, Peters, Davis, Smith, and Landsberg, Miss Scharff, and Mrs. Goldstein.

Per *Australian*, from Sydney—Mrs. P. T. Helms, Mrs. Cox, Miss Cox, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Tilburn and 2 children, Miss B. Mollin, Miss L. Mellin, Mrs. Ah Wong and 3 children, Messrs. T. A. Playfair, Stead, O. Tonk, and S. Halifax. From Melbourne—Mr. Chun Yut and 5 children. From Queensland—Dr. and Mrs. Kartium and 3 children.

Per *Pakshan*, from Straits—Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Erickson.

Per *Independent*, from Iloilo—Mr. and Mrs. Arebker.

Per *Lyeemoon* from Shanghai—Messrs. Erikson, Wong Sann, and Lu Zee.

Per *Sunda*, for Hongkong from London—Mrs. Mumford and 2 children, Mrs. Chas. Cohen, Mrs. Hoile, children Miss Millinship, Staff Surgeon Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Gray and son, Mrs. Horne, Lieut. Wright, Surgeon Horne, R.N., Subadar Major Feroz Khan. From Brindisi—Mr. Schuldt. From Singapore—Messrs. A. J. Reed and C. H. Derrich. For Shanghai from London—Mrs. Oswald and 2 children, Mr. G. C. Dew, Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Little and 2 children, and Miss McFarlane. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Fertig. For Yokohama from London—Mr. R. A. Demuth.

Per *Mirzapore*, for London, from Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith and Mr. L. Hunter; for Bombay, Mr. Stevens. For Ismalia, from Kobe, Dr. Edwards and Mr. H. T. Edwards. For Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. Chew, Wong, M. F. Neirmejee, Rev. W. Bannister and Miss McMuir; for Rangoon, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Gray and children; for Colombo, Miss A. Garvin; for London, Mr. Neatherall.

Per *Oceana*, from Hamburg, &c.—Messrs. Dupny, Goeke, Diestel, and Sternberg.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver—Mrs. S. C. Campbell, Miss E. Campbell, Dr. and Mrs. Davies, Mr. A. P. Stokes, Dr. and Mrs. C. Selden. From Yokohama—Messrs. A. W. Brewin, D. E. Brown, Mrs. A. M. Chalmers, Miss E. Caverhill-Jones, Lieut. C. W. Gordon, Mrs. Gordon and infant, Miss Gordon, Messrs. Hamilton and Komor, Capt. Long, Mrs. Long and infant, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Nicholson, and Mrs. H. B. Price. From Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Imanishi, Mr. and Mrs. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Usher. From Nagasaki—Mr. R. Noda. From Shanghai—Miss Geo. Beatty, Messrs. H. H. Gissino and E. Helderling, Mr. and Mrs. Powell.

DEPARTED.

Per *Menmuir*, from Macao for Timor—Judge A. de Magalhães, Ensign J. L. Marques, Mr. A. A. Ribeiro, Sergeant Correa de Lemos, Misses Beatrice Visitacao and Maria Peres. From Hongkong for Sydney—Mr. J. Souza.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Shanghai—Mrs. and Miss Counts, Messrs. A. Ross and E. M. Knox. For Kobe—Messrs. J. E. Raymond and F. Henderson, Mrs. Long Hop, Miss Poo Wah, Mr. Chen Lou Chew. For Yokohama—Surgeon R. M. May, R.N., Rev. J. C. Gibson, Messrs. C. Tringham, J. Schiffer, Surg. Capt. Watson, Messrs. H. Kajima, Tang Tsou Lun, and Carlos Gsall. For Vancouver (B.C.)—Mrs. Haywood, Mr. Yip On. For Victoria (B.C.)—Miss A. Hung. For Boston—Mrs. Goon Shee, Mr. On Ah Hee. For Philadelphia—Mr. and Mrs. Lee Chun Sun. For London from Yokohama—Col. W. J. Anderson, Messrs. E. B. Saltwell and W. S. Taylor.

Per *Laos*, from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Montgomery, Mrs. Tam, Mrs. Chung, Mrs. Lum, Rev. J. Kem, Messrs. G. Killner, C. J. Demeé, W. D. Montgomery, R. Holbell, Tang Ah Fie, and Sia Yung Kun. For Batavia—Messrs. L. Blom and M. Buhlmann. For Suez—Mr. R. Fredericks. For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Southey, Mr. and Mrs. Fabre, Mrs. Lo and child, Revs. Cremand and Mumbert, Messrs. Gretz, C. Krag, C. Azuar, and Chen San Tsing. From Shanghai for Saigon—Mr. L. Durand. For Port Said—Mr. Waeber. For Marseilles—Mr. Van der Stegen and son, Dr. Taylor Grant, Mr. Ackermann, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fox and baby, Messrs. Schlee, L. Jansen, R. Larsen, and N. Sundsen. From Yokohama for Colombo—Mr. Samuel. For Port Said—Mr. Fioravanti. For Marseilles—Miss E. White, Messrs. den Arend, Notter, Aubert and G. Hirschfeld.

Per *Arratoon Apear*, for Singapore—Mr. W. Walsh. For Penang—Mrs. Lum Oi, Mrs. Tang Oy and sister.

Per *Peru*, for Yokohama—Miss A. Boyd, Mr. Guy Metcalfe, Mr. F. P. Larkin. For Honolulu—Mr. Lum Soy Kun, Mrs. On Shee, and Mr. L. Apana. For San Francisco—Mr. and Mrs. Said Pek Sing.

Per *Haimun*, for Swatow—Mr. Pie. For Amoy—Messrs. Yap Chang Sui, Tan Chan Noot, Yap Tsze and Khan Ken Fong.

Per *Gerda*, from Hamburg for Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Helm, Messrs. Hoffmann and Boden.

Per *Changsha*, for Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Grimble.

Per *Japan* from Hongkong for Singapore—Lieut. H. Holmes. From Shanghai for London—Mr. L. H. Phillips.

Per *Chelydra*, for Singapore—Mrs. Luk Yan. For Calcutta—Mrs. S. C. Campbell.

Per *Sunda*, for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mrs. P. E. O. Brien-Butler and infant, Mrs. Diedrick, Messrs. J. Skinner and J. Orange. From London—Mrs. Oswald and 2 children, Mr. G. C. Dew, Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Little and 2 children, and Miss McFarlane. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fertig. From London for Yokohama—Mr. K. A. Demuth.

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